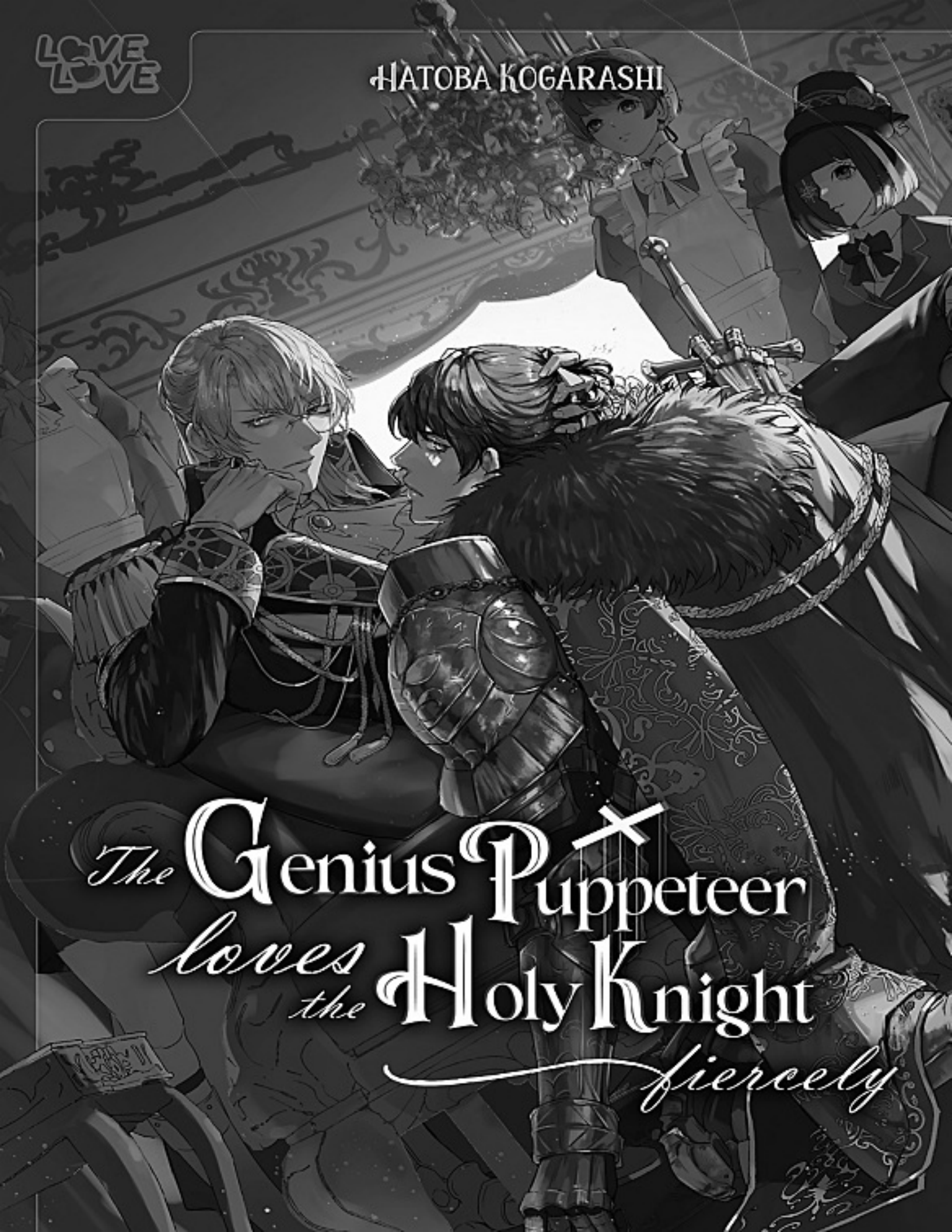
LOVE LOVE

HATOBA KOGARASHI



The Genius Puppeteer loves the Holy Knight fiercely

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Presented By
Hatoba Kogarashi
THE GENIUS PUPPETEER LOVES THE HOLY KNIGHT FIERCELY

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Chapter 1

THEY SAY THAT GOD NEVER GIVES HIS CHILDREN...
...ANY TRIAL TOO GREAT TO BEAR.

IN THE YEAR 1532 OF CONTINENTAL HISTORY...
WITHIN THE CAPITAL OF ARTZAIN: THE COUNTRY OF TECHNOLOGY...
NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE KINGDOM WERE NOT SUCCESSFUL.
THE SENTENCE OF THE INDIVIDUAL IN QUESTION HAS BEEN LEFT TO OUR COUNTRY'S DISCRETION...
JANGL
SO IT HAS THUS BEEN DECREED...!

FOR NUMEROUS CRIMES, INCLUDING INTIMIDATION, LOOTING, AND THE ASSAULT OF WOMEN...
THE PRISONER OF WAR GILBERT GRAVEM...
SHALL BE PUT TO DEATH.
...THE HOLY KNIGHT GILBERT, CAPTAIN OF THE ROYAL KNIGHTS...
...WAS DEFEATED IN BATTLE AND TAKEN CAPTIVE BY THE ENEMY, AND NOW STANDS BEFORE A FARCE OF A TRIAL.

THERE'S NO REASON TO KEEP AN ENEMY GENERAL ALIVE. THIS IS A FARCE.
HOW DARE THEY CHARGE ME WITH ALL THESE BOGUS CRIMES.
OUR COUNTRY DOES NOT COMMONLY MAKE USE OF CAPITAL PUNISHMENT.
SO THIS IS THE END OF THE ROAD.
THEREFORE, OUT OF CONSIDERATION FOR HIS PLEA, THE OTHER DOZENS OF P.O.W.S WILL BE DEALT WITH—
—AT-LEAST MY COMPATRIOTS WILL BE SPARED.
WAIT.

REPEAL THE SENTENCE.
I WILL TAKE CUSTODY OF HIM.
WHA... COLONEL?!
—?!
ザワ
MURMUR

GLARE
WHO ARE YOU TO SUDDENLY DECIDE–
DO YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH THAT?
REPEAL...? WHY?
CHATTER
CHATTER
BUT HIS EXECUTION HAS ALREADY BEEN DECIDED...!
...!
FLINCH
CHILL
YOU KNOW IT'S NOT AS SIMPLE AS THAT.
GOOD GRIEF...
KLAT
SIMPLY PUBLICIZE THAT HIS EXECUTION WAS CARRIED OUT, AND THERE WON'T BE ANY PROBLEMS.

SEND HIM TO MY RESIDENCE IN THE NEXT THREE DAYS.

THAT MAN THEY CALLED THE COLONEL... WHAT IS HE AFTER?
RATTL
RATTL
RATTL
DOES HE WANT TO HUMILIATE ME AS A SLAVE? USE ME FOR HUMAN EXPER-IMENTATION?
...I SUPPOSE THERE'S NO POINT TRYING TO GUESS.
CLACK
CLACK
CLATTER
CLUNK
...
I JUST HOPE...
CREAK
THE OTHERS ARE ALL RIGHT.

GET OUT.
NOD
NOD
THANK YOU FOR YOUR HARD WORK.
I GUESS WE'RE SUPPOSED TO LEAVE THE REST TO YOU?

I KNEW THEY WOULDN'T LET ME ESCAPE THAT EASILY.
!
ガ
GRAB
THERE ARE MECHANICAL DOLLS HERE TOO?

WE HAVE BROUGHT HIM.
ガチャ
KLATCH

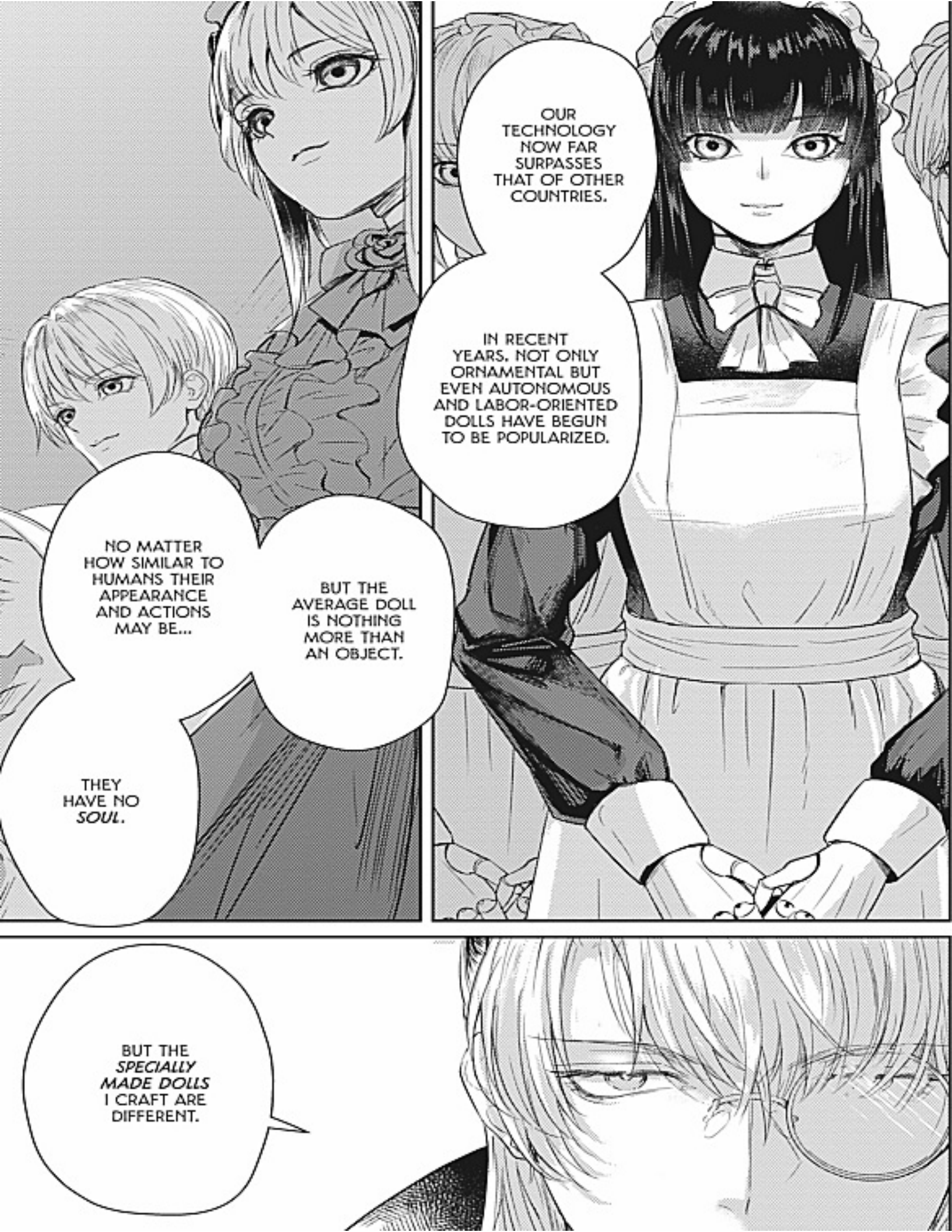
YOU'RE FINALLY HERE.
ザワ
CROWD
ザワ
I'VE BEEN WAITING...
SIR GILBERT.
...?!
WHAT IS THIS ROOM?!

SHOVE
!
NOW, NOW. NO NEED TO BE SO STIFF.
SIT.
THEY'RE ALL DOLLS...?
CLANG
...!
THESE ARE NEW BODIES FOR YOU. PICK WHICHEVER ONE YOU LIKE.
THEY'RE ALL WORKS OF ART. WOULDN'T YOU AGREE?
IF YOU'RE NOT FOND OF ANY OF THESE. I'D BE HAPPY TO BUILD YOU ONE FROM SCRATCH.
PULL
BODY...?
...? I DON'T FOLLOW. JUST WHO ARE YOU?
I AM THE PUPPETEER CHRIS.

AND I WISH TO MAKE YOU ONE OF MY DOLL CREATIONS.
WHAT?

HOLD ON...
THIS IS MAKING LESS AND LESS SENSE.
HRM?
OR PERHAPS IT WOULD BE MORE ACCURATE TO SAY...
..."I WANT TO MAKE A DOLL OUT OF YOU."
PUPPETEER?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY MAKING ME A DOLL...?
I SEE. SO IT'S A FOREIGN CONCEPT IN YOUR COUNTRY, IS IT?
IT'S A BOTHER. BUT I SHALL EXPLAIN.
THE FORMER I'M FAMILIAR WITH. BUT...

AS THE TITLE OF "COUNTRY OF TECHNOLOGY" SUGGESTS...
OURS IS A COUNTRY WHERE ENGINEERS AND CRAFTSMEN WITH SUPERIOR SKILLS GATHER.
WEAPONRY. TRANSPORTATION. CLOTHING. WATCHES. CERAMICS... THERE ARE ALL MANNER OF MANUFACTURED GOODS, BUT...
AMONG THEM, "DOLLS" HAVE LONG BEEN STAPLES IN OUR UNIQUE CULTURE.
THOSE ARTISANS THAT CRAFT SUCH DOLLS ARE REFERRED TO AS "PUPPETEERS."
I SEE...
SO THIS MAN... ISN'T... A MILITARY OFFICER?


OUR TECHNOLOGY NOW FAR SURPASSES THAT OF OTHER COUNTRIES.
IN RECENT YEARS, NOT ONLY ORNAMENTAL BUT EVEN AUTONOMOUS AND LABOR-ORIENTED DOLLS HAVE BEGUN TO BE POPULARIZED.
NO MATTER HOW SIMILAR TO HUMANS THEIR APPEARANCE AND ACTIONS MAY BE...
BUT THE AVERAGE DOLL IS NOTHING MORE THAN AN OBJECT.
THEY HAVE NO *SOUL*.
BUT THE *SPECIALLY MADE DOLLS* I CRAFT ARE DIFFERENT.

ZSH
I CAN SEE PEOPLE'S SOULS.
THEREFORE, I CAN DO WHAT OTHERS CAN'T...
AND CREATE DOLLS IMBUED WITH SOULS.
...?! HE CAN SEE SOULS?
DOLLS WITH SOULS? WHAT DOES HE MEAN?!
OF COURSE, NOT ALL OF MY DOLLS POSSESS A SOUL.

AND YOU'RE SAYING I'M ONE OF THOSE FEW PEOPLE?
THAT'S RIGHT.
ONLY THE FEW PEOPLE THAT I PERSONALLY RECOGNIZE MAY BE MADE INTO SUCH A RARE AND PRECIOUS DOLL.
CLIK
THE MOMENT I SAW YOU, I COULD TELL.
I'VE NEVER SEEN ANOTHER WHO POSSESSES A SOUL OF THIS COLOR.
AND I KNEW INTUITIVELY...
FZT
SWF
DAZZLINGLY STRONG YET DANGEROUS.
YOU POSSESS A RARE AND BEAUTIFUL SOUL.

...IF I COULD CREATE A DOLL THAT HARBORED YOUR SOUL...
SWF
IT WOULD BE MY MAGNUM OPUS.
THIS ALL SOUNDS LIKE AN IMPOSSIBLE DREAM.
AND HE CAN TRANSFER THEM INTO DOLLS?
HE CAN SEE SOULS?
I'VE NEVER HEARD OF SUCH A THING BEFORE.

EVEN IF WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS TRUE...
WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO ME IF I BECAME A DOLL?
DOES THAT MEAN... I WOULDN'T DIE?
EXACTLY.
THE OWNER OF THE SOUL WOULD ENTER THE NEW VESSEL OF A DOLL AND LIVE ON.
HURUMPH
ALTHOUGH I CALL THEM DOLLS, THEY CAN SEE, HEAR, MOVE AROUND FREELY, AND SPEAK.
THEY DON'T FEEL PAIN, AND THEIR BODIES DO NOT DETERIORATE LIKE HUMAN BODIES.
THEY'RE MORE FUNCTIONAL THAN FLESH AND BLOOD, AND MORE EFFICIENT TOO.
BEST OF ALL, THEY'RE BEAUTIFUL.
THE PERFECT CONTAINER.

TO PLAY AROUND WITH THE LIFE GOD GRANTED US LIKE MERE TOYS AND THEN PLAY AT BESTOWING IMMORTALITY ON TOP OF THAT?!
HOW CAN YOU CALL THAT PERFECTION?
HOW ARROGANT CAN YOU BE?! IT'S BLASPHEMY!
GRP
WHAT YOU'RE DOING IS FORBIDDEN. AND FOR GOOD REASON!
GLARE
THEN WOULD YOU RATHER DIE?
GRIT
...!
I WON'T WASTE A VALUABLE VESSEL BY FORCING IT UPON THE UNGRATEFUL.

WHETHER I LIVE OR DIE DEPENDS ON THIS MAN!
HE'S RIGHT. I'M SLATED TO BE EXECUTED.
IF YOU'RE NOT INTERESTED, THEN I HAVE NO USE FOR YOU.
YOU CAN RETURN TO YOUR CELL AND WAIT OUT YOUR EXECUTION.
AND BEGGED TO BECOME MY WORKS OF ART, YOU KNOW?
THERE ARE EVEN SOME IN THIS COUNTRY WHO HAVE HEARD THE RUMORS...
GAZE
COME NOW. IT'S NOT ALL THAT BAD A DEAL FOR YOU.
IT'S AT LEAST BETTER THAN SITTING AROUND AND WAITING FOR YOUR DEATH... DON'T YOU AGREE?

NOW CHOOSE.
BECOME MY DOLL...
OR DIE.

I CANNOT SQUANDER MY LIFE.
OOH! THEN...
GLOW
BUT I HAVE NO DESIRE TO BECOME THE KIND OF DOLL YOU SPEAK OF!
SO THEN WHAT WOULD BE THE POINT?
I COULD NEVER RETURN HOME IN SUCH A STATE.
EVEN IF I BECAME A DOLL AND PROLONGED MY LIFE...
I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO CALL MYSELF ONE OF GOD'S BELOVED.

NO NEED. I ALREADY HAVE ENOUGH HELP.
I DO NOT EXPECT TO BE KEPT ALIVE FOR NOTHING.
WHY NOT PUT ME TO WORK FOR YOU?
I'M TELLING YOU. I HAVE NO NEED OF IT.
IF I NEED ANYTHING DONE, IT'S MORE CONVENIENT TO LEAVE IT TO MY DOLLS.
I'LL DO ANYTHING, BE IT SMALL JOBS OR PHYSICAL LABOR...
THERE'S NO REASON FOR ME TO GO OUT OF MY WAY TO KEEP A HUMAN ON THE PREMISES.

...!
THEN...
WHAT OF... TAKING CARE OF YOUR SEXUAL NEEDS?
YOU CAN'T SAY THAT THE TOUCH OF A DOLL IS COMPARABLE TO THAT OF A HUMAN.
IT IS A FORBIDDEN ACT IN MY COUNTRY. BUT...
HERE... IT'S NOT ALL THAT RARE FOR MEN TO ENGAGE IN SEXUAL CONGRESS, IS IT?

...
KUH.
HA
HA
HA
HA!!
HEH!
KUH
KUH...
...
THAT'S WHAT YOU COME UP WITH?!
YOU'RE OFFERING TO DEGRADE YOURSELF AS A SEX SLAVE?!
YOU? A HOLY KNIGHT WHO SERVES GOD!
THE KNIGHT COMMANDER OF VALRION, PROCLAIMED A HERO OF HIS NATION!
SWF
ス...

GRP
!!
GRAB
DON'T BELITTLE ME, YOU WORTHLESS HOLY KNIGHT.
I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU DO THINGS IN YOUR COUNTRY, BUT...
I HAVE NO VULGAR TASTE FOR THE ABUSE OF PRISONERS OF WAR.
STILL...
YOU INTRIGUE ME.

INSTEAD OF MAKING YOU A DOLL...
YOU'D RATHER I USE YOU TO SATISFY MY SEXUAL URGES.
THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE PROPOSING. YES?
YES.
I WANT YOU TO MAKE ME YOUR SLAVE.
PLEASE.
USE THIS BODY... AS YOU DESIRE.

EVEN A VIRGIN MAIDEN WOULD DO A BETTER JOB OF PROPOSITIONING THAN THAT.
BUT VERY WELL.
IF YOU INSIST. WHAT CHOICE DO I HAVE?
NOW THEN...
LET'S SEE WHAT YOU CAN DO.

HMM.
NOW THAT I'VE HAD A GOOD LOOK AT YOU. YOU'RE NOT HALF BAD.
THE COLOR OF YOUR EYES... WHAT A LOVELY SHADE.
YOU'RE PLENTY VULGAR.
I THINK...
TUG
CLINK
カチャ…
CLINK
カチャ

SAY WHAT YOU LIKE.
CLINK
カチャ
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SAID YOU WANTED THIS. REMEMBER?
RUSTL
TUG
...!
フーハーン
FLOP
THIS IS... HUMILATING.
EVEN COMPARED TO THE PAIN AND FEAR I FELT ON THE BATTLEFIELD.
ALL I HAVE TO DO IS LICK IT.
LAP
I'M SURE EVEN GOD WILL BE KIND ENOUGH TO SHUT HIS EYES TO THIS ACT.

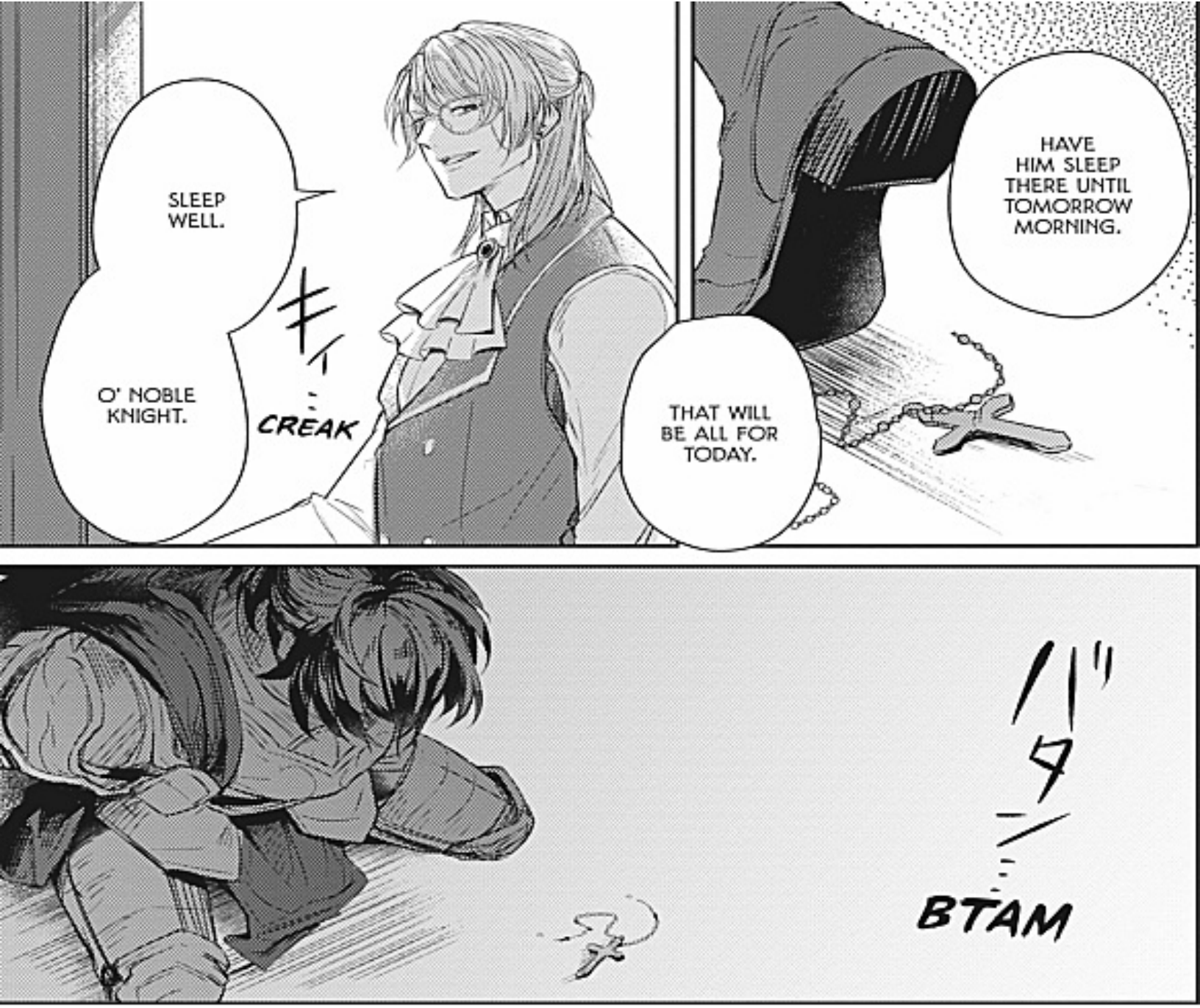
HFF...
MM.
SUCK
IT IS FOR MY OWN SURVIVAL!
EVEN IF THIS IS A DISGRACE TO THE NAME OF HOLY KNIGHTHOOD...
CREEP
SWF
YOU'RE TERRIBLE AT THIS.
MLEM
OR WERE YOU THINKING...
THAT IF I FORCED MYSELF UPON YOU...
PUT YOUR HEART INTO IT.
SHOVE
NGH!
GRIND
YOU COULD KEEP YOUR PRIDE INTACT?
...?!
SHLOOSH

SHOVE
!
VERY WELL.
THRUST
SHLICK
UNGH!
THRUST
GRK
GRK
NGH!
THAT'S A LOT OF SELF-RESPECT FOR A SLAVE.
GRP
I'LL DO AS YOU WANT.
PLUNGE
THRUST
THRUST
BUT WHATEVER YOU DO. DON'T GET THE FLOOR DIRTY.
SQUELCH
!
SHOVE
AGH!

GRP
SPURT
–!
TWITCH
...!
I CAN TAKE THIS.
NGH...
MM...
GULP
IF THIS IS ALL IT IS.

SLUMP
UGH...
KOFF!
KOFF!
SLIP
THAT WASN'T AS BAD AS I'D EXPECTED.
I SEE.
SWF..
SWF SWF
KOFF!
BLEGH!
CLINK
THIS THING...
HAAH...
HAAH...

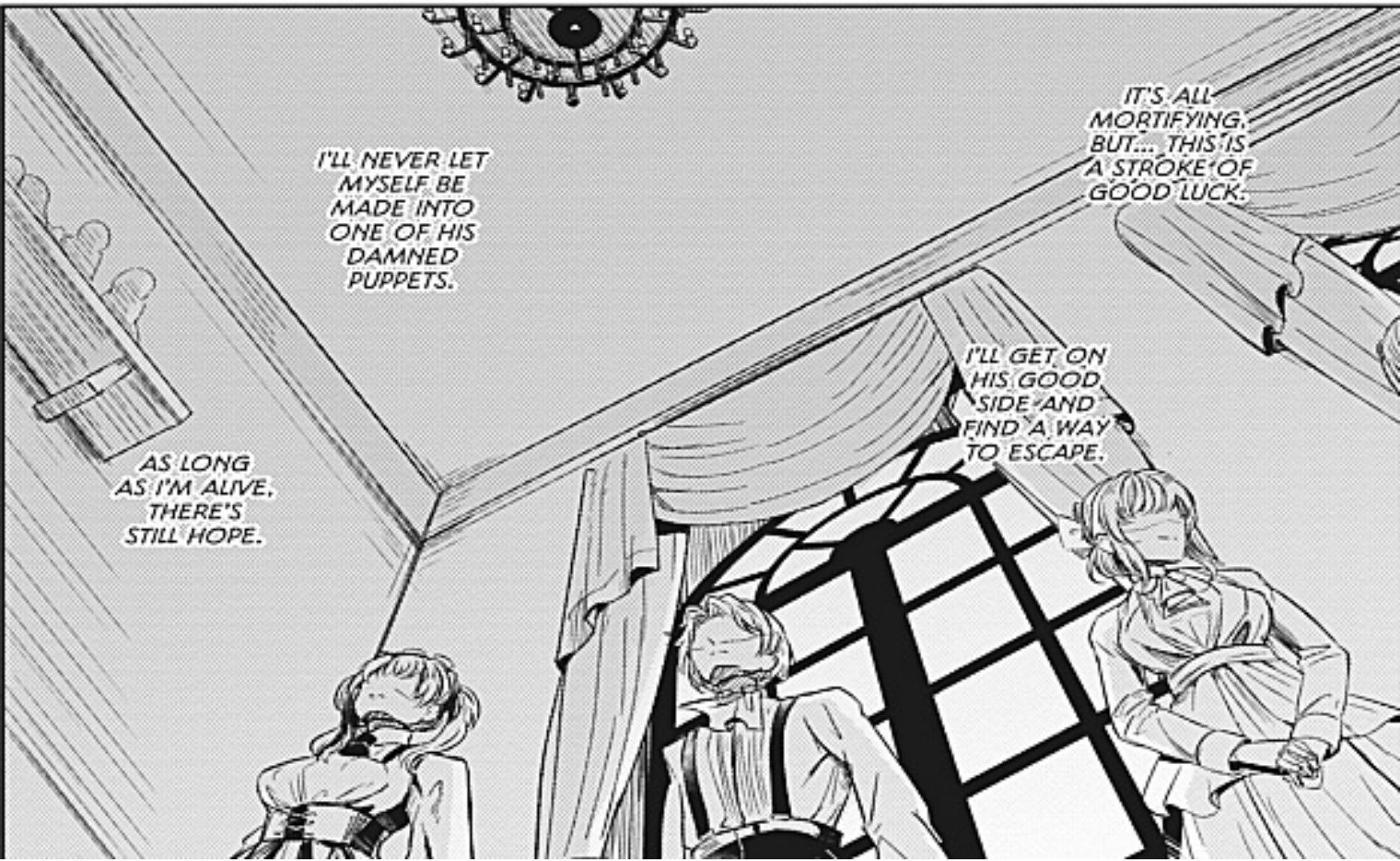
7"
RIP
DROP
YOU WON'T BE NEEDING IT ANYMORE.
7"
GRIND
TOMORROW. I'LL PUT A NEW COLLAR ON YOU.
STOMP


SLEEP WELL.
O' NOBLE KNIGHT.
CREAK
THAT WILL BE ALL FOR TODAY.
HAVE HIM SLEEP THERE UNTIL TOMORROW MORNING.

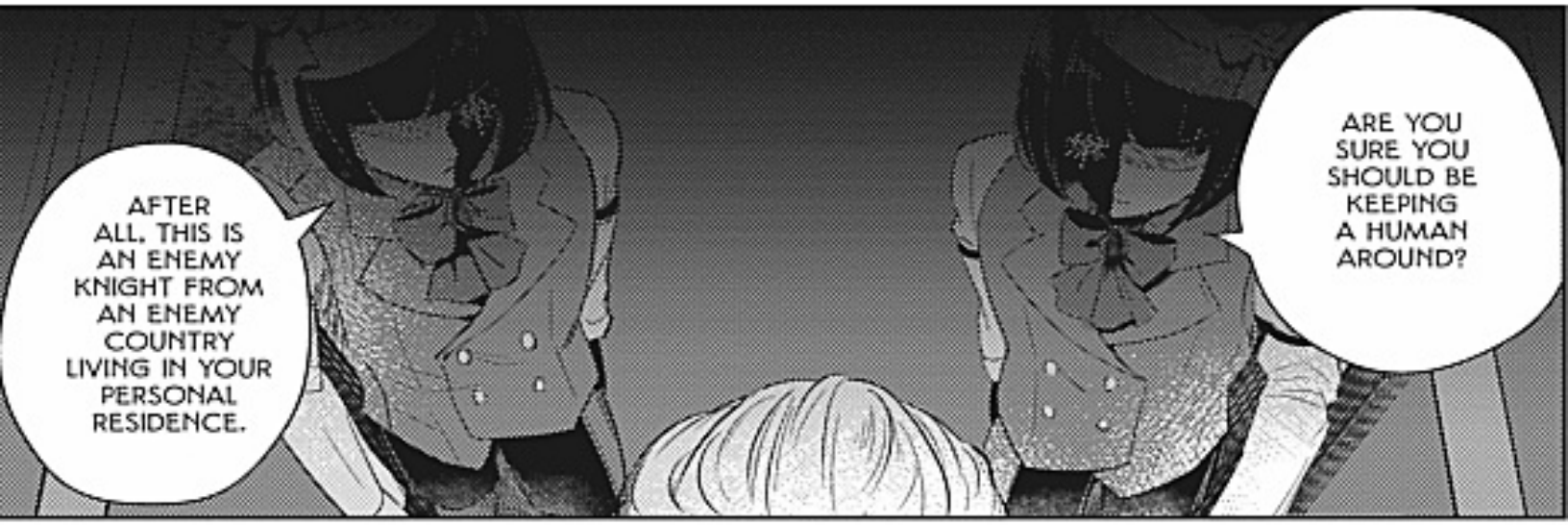
BTAM

THAT DEVIL!
SO MUCH FOR HIM NOT "HAVING A TASTE FOR ABUSING SLAVES"!
GRIT
KUH...!
...

CALM DOWN...
FOR NOW, I'VE ESCAPED EXECUTION.
I SURVIVED!


IT'S ALL MORTIFYING. BUT... THIS IS A STROKE OF GOOD LUCK.
I'LL NEVER LET MYSELF BE MADE INTO ONE OF HIS DAMNED PUPPETS.
I'LL GET ON HIS GOOD SIDE AND FIND A WAY TO ESCAPE.
AS LONG AS I'M ALIVE, THERE'S STILL HOPE.

FOR THAT...
I MUSTN'T LOSE HOPE...
SWAY
I'LL RETURN TO MY COUNTRY.
I'LL SAVE EVERYONE.


AFTER ALL, THIS IS AN ENEMY KNIGHT FROM AN ENEMY COUNTRY LIVING IN YOUR PERSONAL RESIDENCE.
ARE YOU SURE YOU SHOULD BE KEEPING A HUMAN AROUND?

IT'D BE A WASTE TO KILL HIM.
I'LL LEAVE HIS CARE TO THE TWO OF YOU.
I DON'T CARE. I LIKE HIM.

IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE RIGHT AWAY.
I'LL GET HIS SOUL SOONER OR LATER.
CREAK
YES.
TO MAKE A SOUL DANCE BENEATH MY FINGERTIPS...
HE WILL BE MINE...
MARK MY WORDS...

Chapter 2

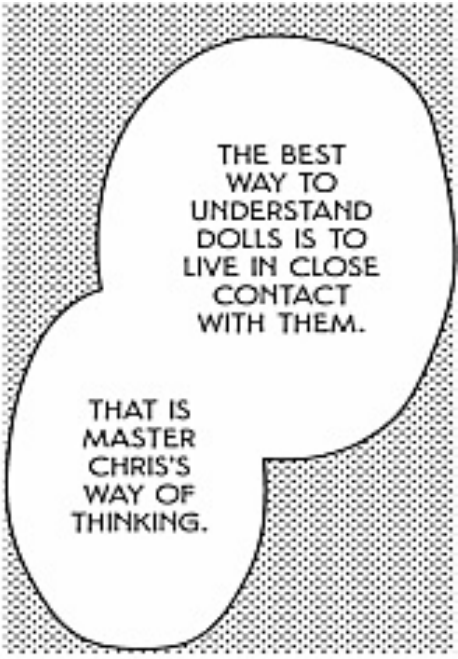
WAAAAAH!
UWAAAAH!
THEY'RE MONSTERS!
NOT EVEN DECAPITATION STOPS THEM FROM MOVING?!
WHA...!
ZSH
ZSH
CAPTAIN!
SSSHHH

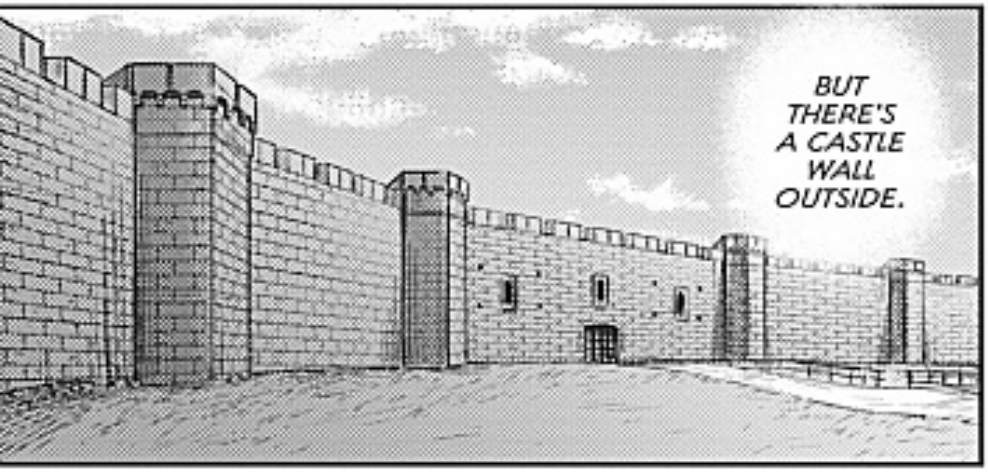
IF THIS KEEPS UP...
OUR KINGDOM WILL FALL!
TCH...!
WAKE UP.

MASTER CHRIS SAID THAT WE ARE TO LET YOU DO AS YOU PLEASE...
BUT NOW THAT YOU ARE HERE, YOU WILL BE PUT TO WORK.
YOUR IMMEDIATE TASKS ARE TO ORGANIZE THE STUDY AND SERVE AS A TASTE TESTER.
FWP
CLANG
THIS IS YOUR ROOM. USE IT WHEN NECESSARY.
NOW BATHE AND GET CHANGED.

...
ANY...
QUESTIONS?
※ AFTER A BATH
WHY IS A PRISONER OF WAR... OR RATHER...
A SLAVE BEING GIVEN THIS MUCH FREEDOM?

THAT MAN...
CHRIS...


THE BEST WAY TO UNDERSTAND DOLLS IS TO LIVE IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH THEM.
THAT IS MASTER CHRIS'S WAY OF THINKING.


BUT THERE'S A CASTLE WALL OUTSIDE.

HE SORELY UNDERESTIMATES ME.
GRIT

!
YOU MEAN CHRIS MADE ALL THESE MECHANICAL DOLLS TOO?
YES.

WE CAN EASILY RESTRAIN YOU AT ANY TIME.
AFTER ALL, THE DOLLS HERE ARE *ALL* MASTER CHRIS'S HANDMADE ELITE.
AND INSIDE ARE...

JUST AS WE ARE.
IT REFERS TO AUTOMATONS THAT ARE FITTED WITH "ARTIFICIAL MAGIC STONES" AS THEIR POWER SOURCE.
IT WAS MASTER CHRIS WHO FIRST THOUGHT UP AND DEVELOPED "MAGICALLY INFUSED MECHANICAL DOLLS" IN THE FIRST PLACE.
IT'S LESSON TIME.
MAGICALLY INFUSED?
NEVER HEARD OF IT.
AND THEY ARE ALL THE OFFSPRING OF MASTER CHRIS.
THERE ARE MANY VARIETIES.
MASTER CHRIS IS A GENIUS.
HE BRINGS TO LIFE THINGS THAT COMMONERS HAVE NEVER EVEN DREAMED OF.

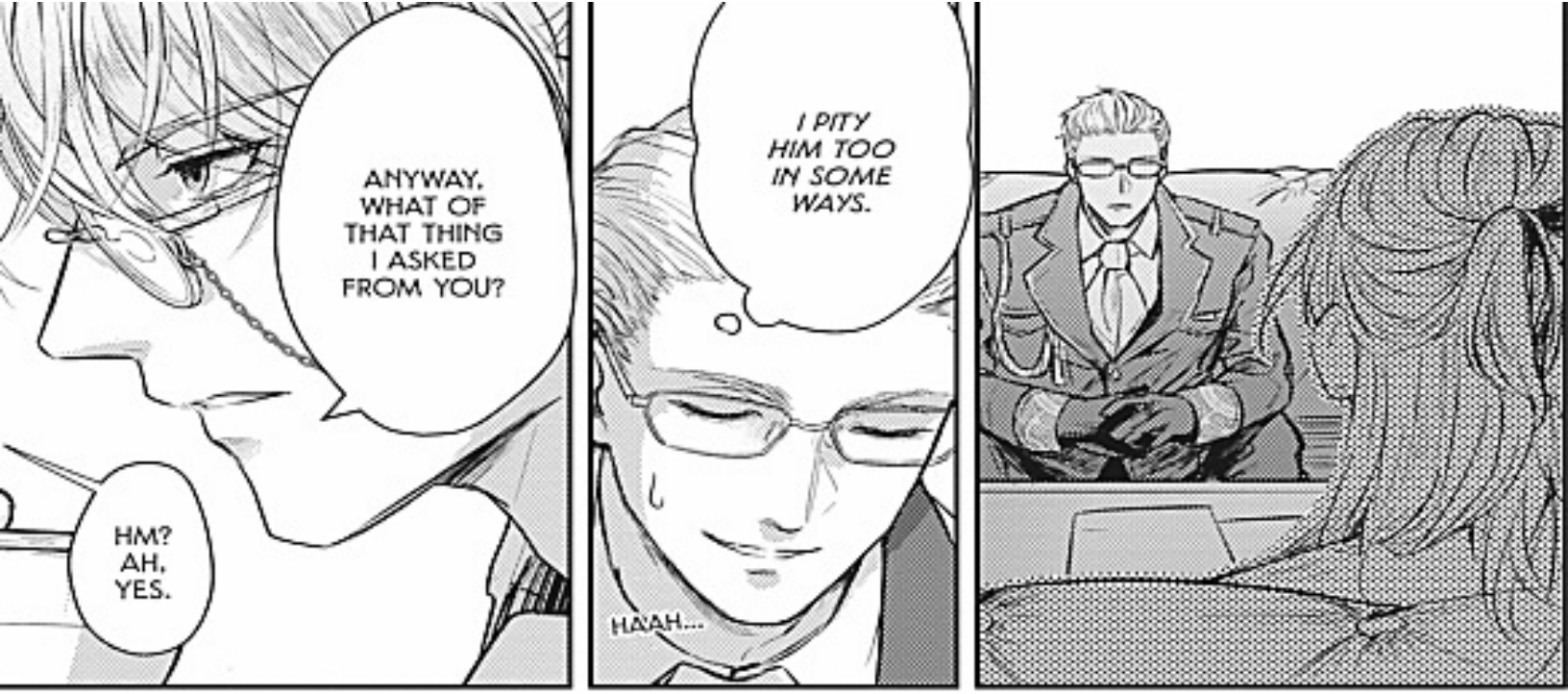
THEN YOU TWO...
ARE "WORKS" OF HIS TOO?
...
DOLLS WITH SOULS... THEY MEAN?
EXACTLY.
WE WERE ACCEPTED TO BE "SPECIALLY MADE" BY MASTER CHRIS.
BUT WE ARE DIFFERENT FROM THE OTHERS.

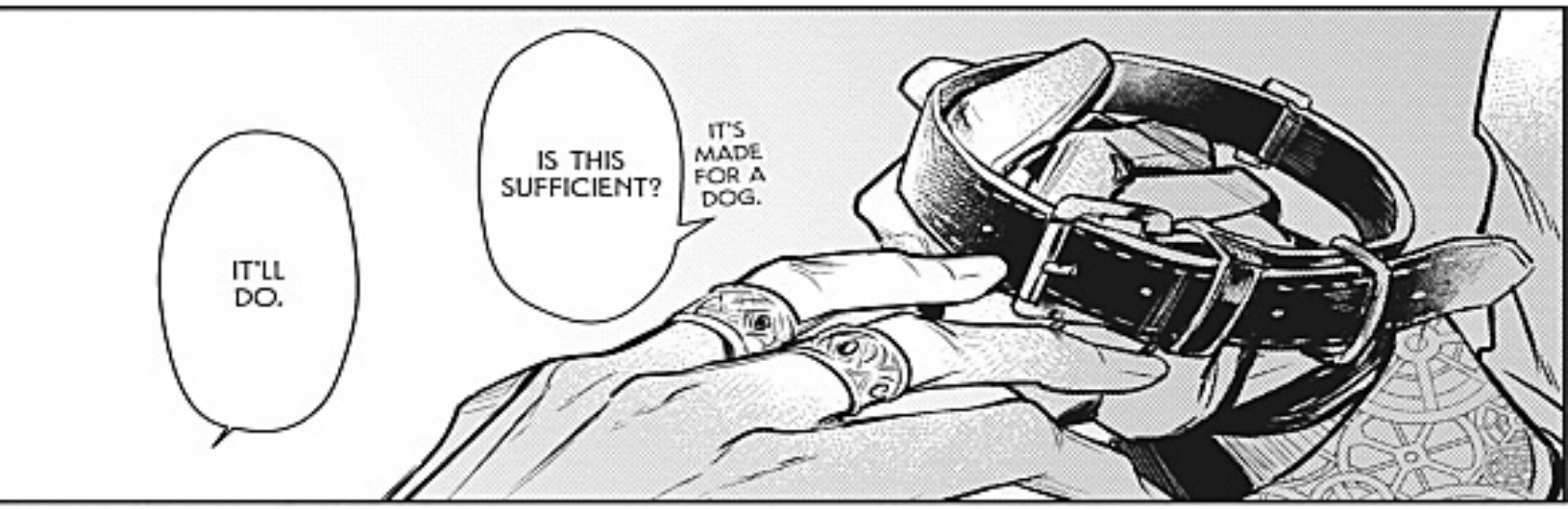
ALL THE BETTER THAT THEY WHOLLY UNDERESTIMATE ME.
IN ANY CASE, THEY MADE IT SOUND LIKE THERE'S NO ESCAPE.

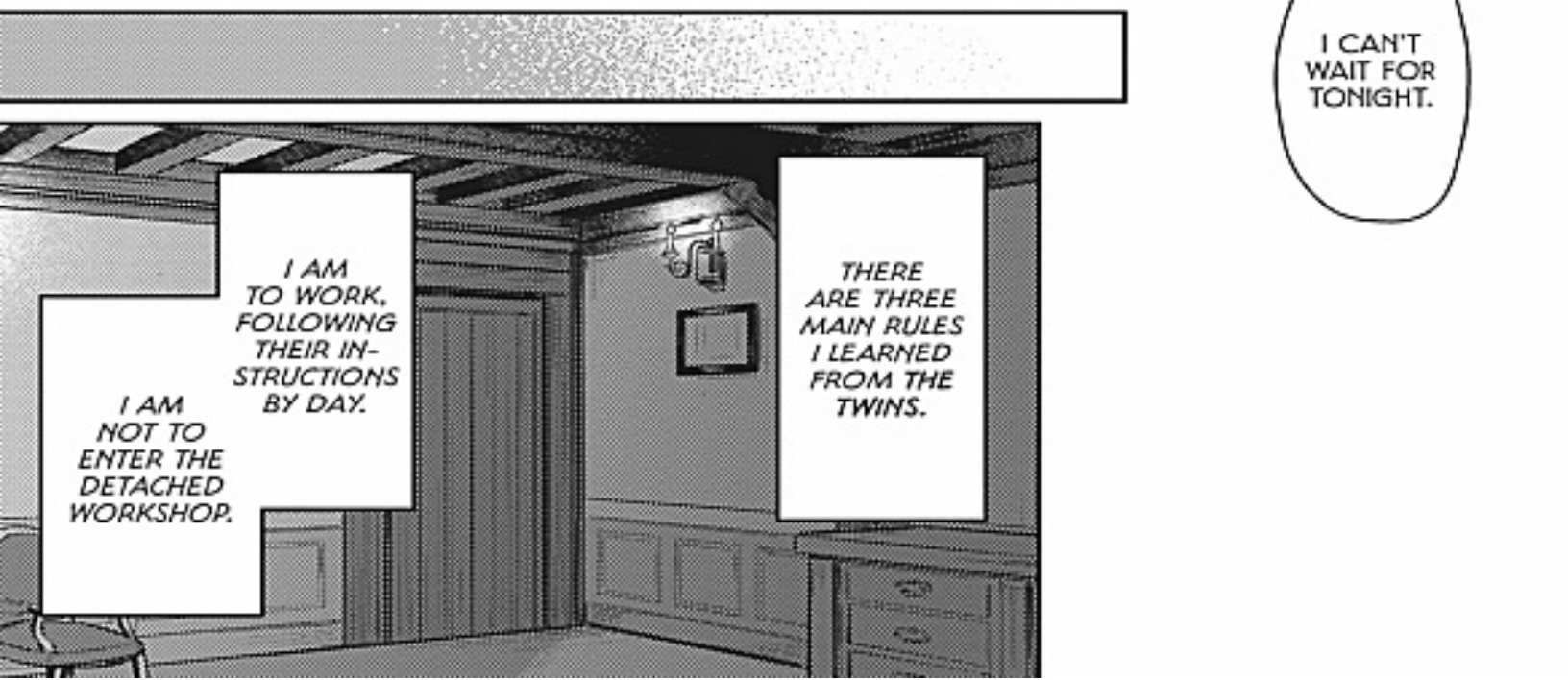
IS THAT KNIGHT'S SOUL TRULY SO BEAUTIFUL?
YES.
HE DOESN'T SEEM INTERESTED IN BECOMING A DOLL AT THIS POINT IN TIME. BUT...
CLINK

I'VE DECIDED TO HOLD ONTO HIM FOR A WHILE.
...HE'S STILL QUITE ENTERTAINING.
SWF
THERE ARE VARIOUS REPORTS AND...
PLEASE BE SURE TO DO YOUR WORK FOR THE ARMY TOO.
THAT'S FINE AND ALL. BUT...
FWAP
HAAH...
I SEE.

AS YOU SAID, THEY WENT WITH SAYING THAT "THE EXECUTION WAS CARRIED OUT PRIVATELY."
RSTL
WHAT'S THIS, CEDRIC?
A NEWSPAPER?
READ IT AND YOU'LL FIND OUT.
BUT CHRIS, COULD IT BE...
THAT YOU FORESAW THAT AS WELL?
HA, HARDLY.
I'VE NEVER HAD ANY INTEREST IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE COUNTRY.
FWAP
I WANT TO MAKE HIM ONE OF MY WORKS.
THAT IS ALL.


ANYWAY, WHAT OF THAT THING I ASKED FROM YOU?
HM? AH, YES.
I PITY HIM TOO IN SOME WAYS.
HAAH...


IS THIS SUFFICIENT?
IT'S MADE FOR A DOG.
IT'LL DO.


I CAN'T WAIT FOR TONIGHT.
I AM TO WORK, FOLLOWING THEIR IN-STRUCTIONS BY DAY.
I AM NOT TO ENTER THE DETACHED WORKSHOP.
THERE ARE THREE MAIN RULES I LEARNED FROM THE TWINS.

AND FINALLY...
I AM TO OBEY CHRIS'S ORDERS ABSOLUTELY.
I KNEW IT. IT LOOKS WONDERFUL ON YOU.

HOW DO YOU LIKE MY DOLLS NOW?
NOW.

I LEARNED THAT YOU'RE QUITE POWERFUL. TO BE ABLE TO CREATE SUCH INTRICATE AUTOMATONS.
BUT IT DOESN'T CHANGE HOW I FEEL... I DON'T WANT TO BECOME A DOLL.

IF YOU'VE CHANGED YOUR MIND, YOU CAN TELL ME.
SMILE

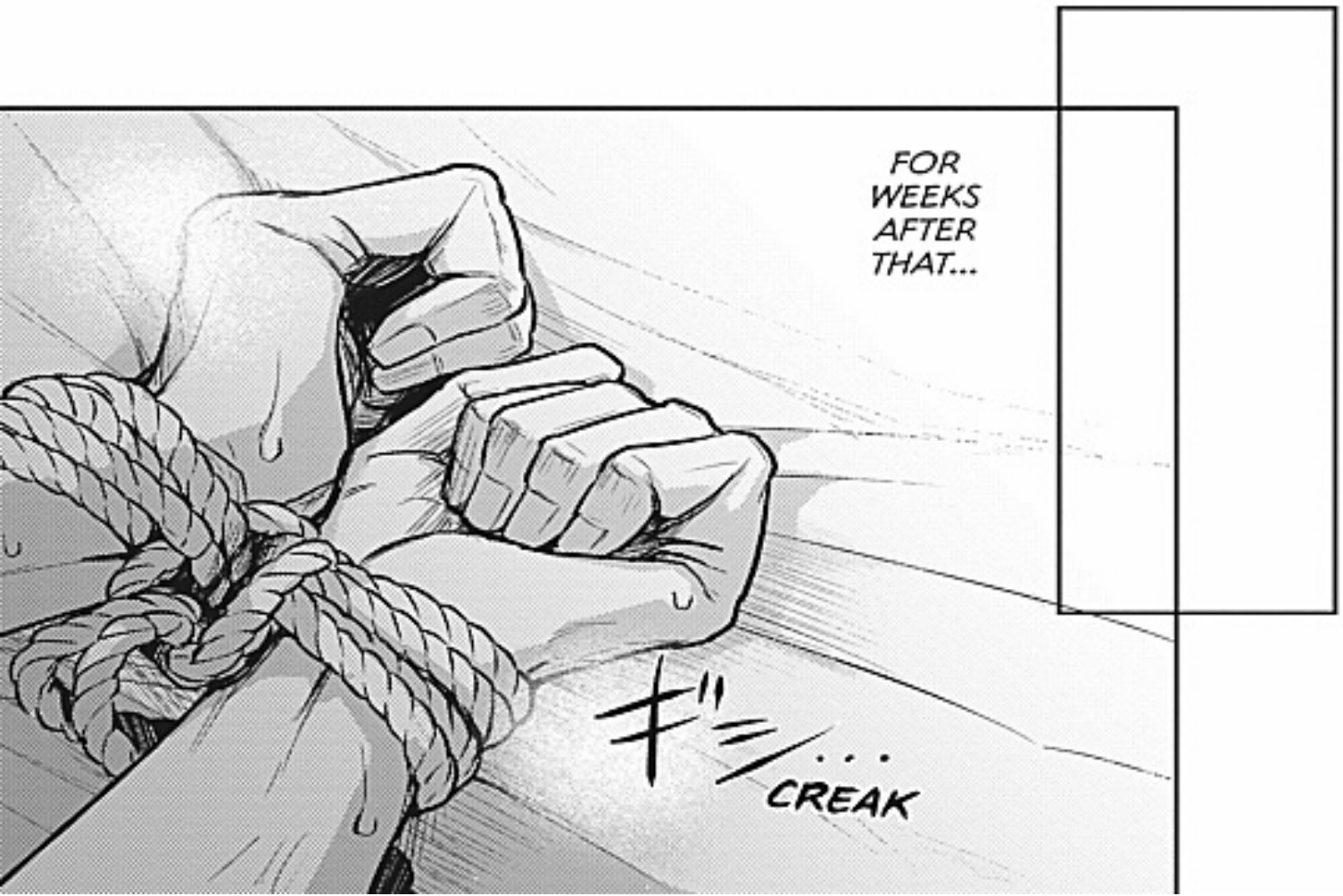
I SEE... DOES THIS STEM FROM YOUR FAITH?

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW MANY OF MY FRIENDS THEY KILLED?
YOU MADE THOSE WEAPONIZED DOLLS.
YOU'RE AN AUTHORITY AMONG THE LEADERS OF AN ENEMY NATION.
SO WHAT OF IT?
I DO RECALL I WAS ASKED BY THE HIGHER UPS TO CREATE THOSE THINGS.
AH, YES.
...?

...!
FLINCH
YOU'VE PROBABLY KILLED COUNTLESS PEOPLE IN YOUR LIFE.
FOR YOU... AS A HERO OF THE KINGDOM...
IT DOES NOT CHANGE HOW I FEEL!
EVEN SO!
I DON'T WANT TO BECOME ONE OF YOUR DOLLS!

I WILL USE YOUR FLESH...
AS I LIKE.
I SEE.
THEN AS YOU WISH...
SWF
CREAK
YOU DON'T HAVE MUCH EXPERIENCE ANYWAY, DO YOU?
I'VE HEARD THAT EVEN MEN CAN BE MADE TO MOAN LIKE WOMEN IF THEY ARE ACCLIMATED ENOUGH TO THE ACT.
CREAK

LET'S SEE...
IF YOU WILL TOO.


FOR WEEKS AFTER THAT...
CREAK

HFF!
HFF!
FLINCH
ALL TO SATISFY THIS MAN'S CURIOSITY.
TRMBL
SHLICK
SQUELCH
...EVERY NIGHT, I WAS PLAYED WITH LIKE A DOLL.
SQUELCH
HAVE HIS WAY.
...!
GRIT
SQUELCH
SQUELCH
BUT...
JUMP
KUH!
AH!
I WAS DETERMINED NOT TO LET THIS MAN...
SQUELCH
SHLICK
NO MATTER WHAT HUMILIATION I ENDURE...
IT'S BETTER THAN LOSING MY HUMAN BODY.
SHLICK!

CREAK
REALLY SEE RIGHT INTO MY HEART.
WHEN HE LOOKS AT ME WITH THAT EYE...
IT'S AS IF HE CAN...
KLAT
HAAH!
HAH!
I LOVE YOU...
I WOULDN'T MIND IF YOU MADE AN EVEN BIGGER MESS OF YOURSELF.
...!
TWITCH
JUST THE WAY YOU ARE.
OR SHALL WE QUIT WASTING TIME...
AND I CAN MAKE YOU INTO A DOLL THAT FEELS NOTHING?

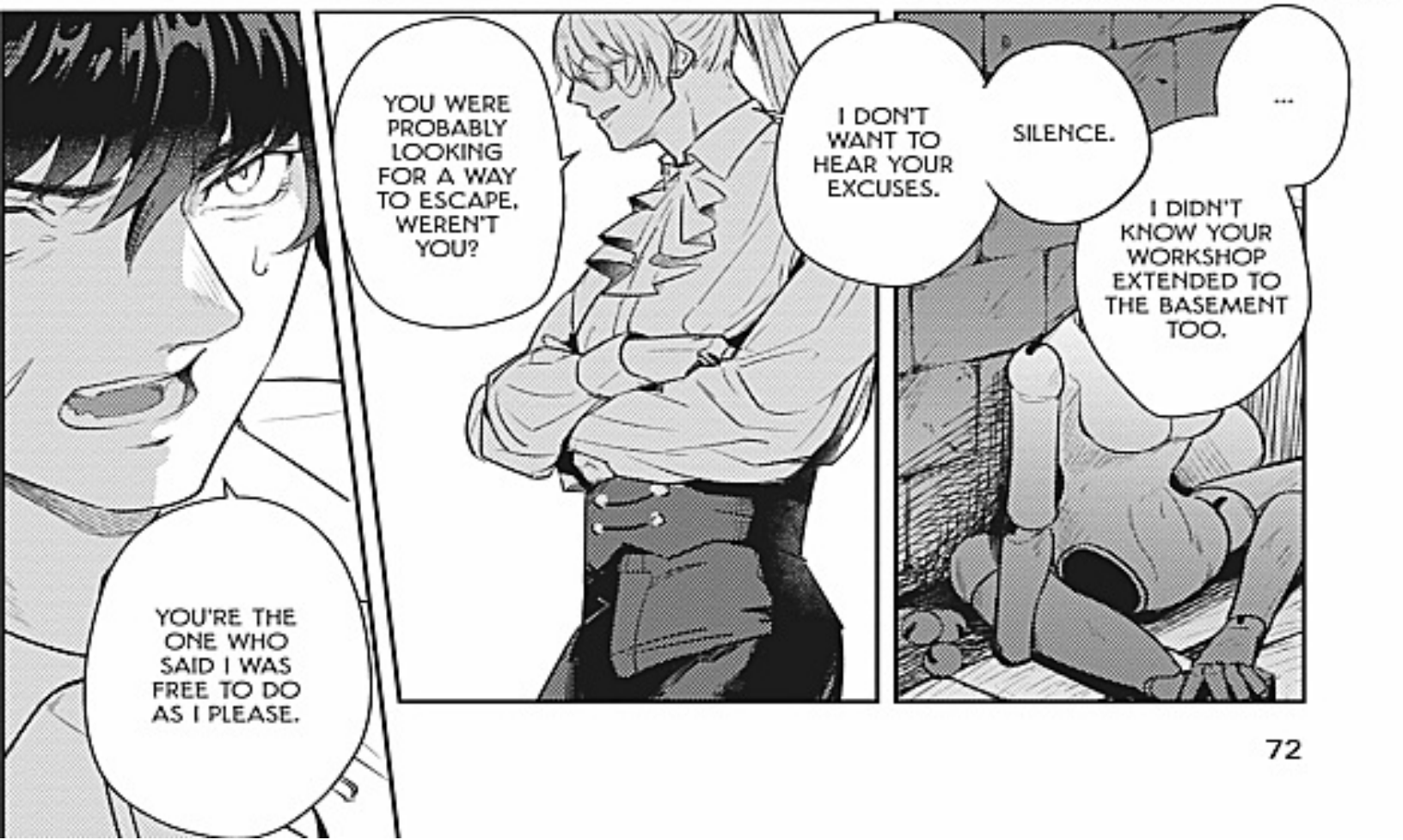
FLINCH
...!!
GUH...
MM...
NGH...
THRUST
PRESS
SQUELCH
SQUELCH
HAH!
WHO WOULD EVER...!
AH...!
DRIBBLE
JOLT
SPURT
TWITCH
SQUELCH
I HAVE TO HURRY...
AND MAKE MY ESCAPE.
HAH...
HAAH...

DURING THE DAY, CHRIS ALL BUT HOLED HIMSELF UP IN HIS WORKSHOP.
WHEN NOT WORKING WITH THE DOLLS...
BELIEVING THERE WAS A MEANS OF ESCAPE...
I EXPLORED THE ESTATE LITTLE BY LITTLE.

A BASEMENT!
CREAK
IF THE UPSTAIRS IS AS EXPANSIVE AS IT IS...
IT WOULDN'T BE OUT OF THE QUESTION FOR THERE TO BE MULTIPLE EXITS AND ENTRANCES.
CLIK
CLIK
GLANCE
SNEAK
CLIK
CLIK

SHOCK
...?!
A PERSON...?
...?
WHAT IS THIS PLACE...?
CREAK
CLIK
CLIK
SHE WERE MERELY A PERSON ASLEEP.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
BUT SHE'S SO EXQUISITELY CRAFTED.
NO... SHE'S A DOLL TOO.
IT'S ALMOST AS THOUGH...

YOU KNOW THAT ENTRY INTO MY WORKSHOP IS FORBIDDEN.
!!
FWP
ZSH


YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SAID I WAS FREE TO DO AS I PLEASE.
YOU WERE PROBABLY LOOKING FOR A WAY TO ESCAPE, WEREN'T YOU?
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR YOUR EXCUSES.
SILENCE.
...
I DIDN'T KNOW YOUR WORKSHOP EXTENDED TO THE BASEMENT TOO.

IT SEEMS I'VE BEEN TOO SOFT ON YOU.
COME.

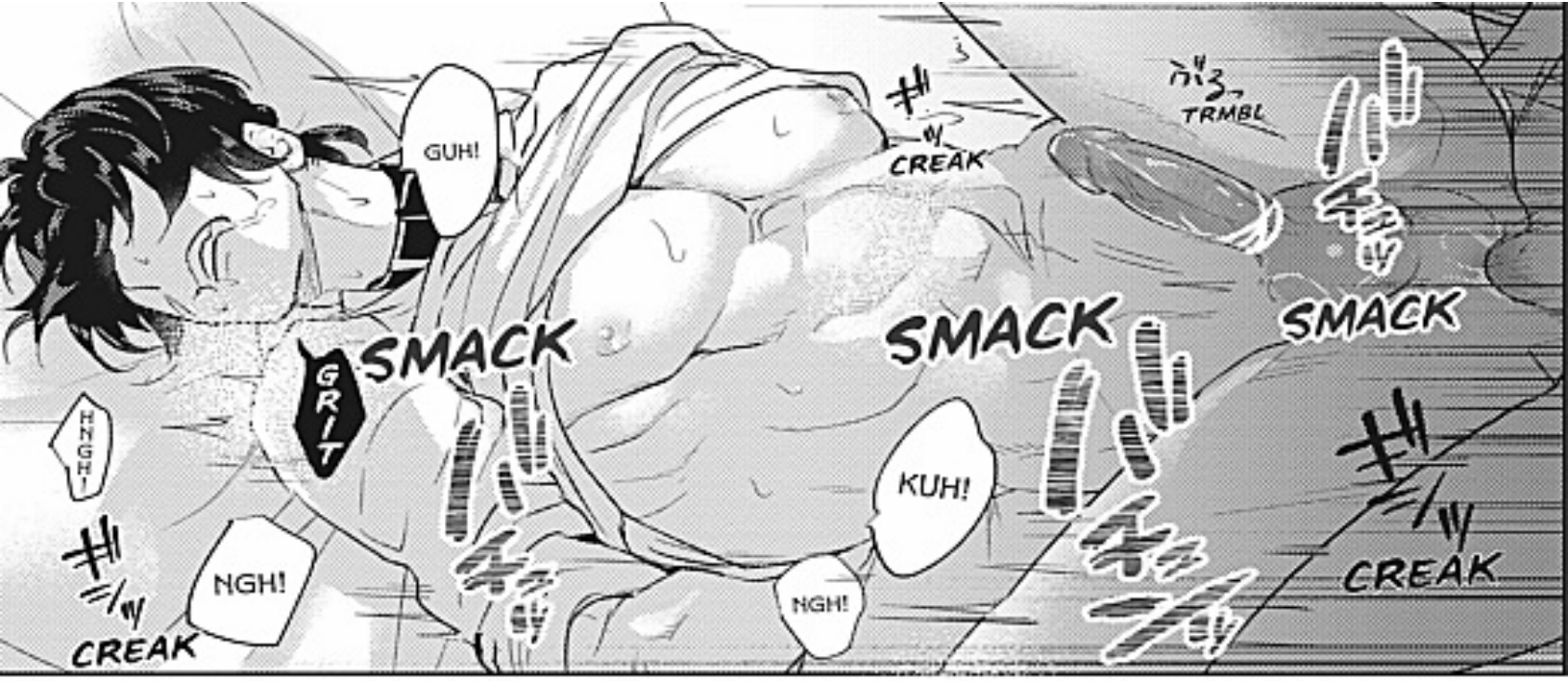
WHUMP
...!
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO HAVE THE DOLLS DO IT TODAY?
キィ
CREAK
キィ
TIGHT
THREAD...?
MY ARMS...

キュポン
POP
グイ
TUG
トロ…
DRIBBLE
I'LL DO WITH YOU JUST AS I PLEASE.
キィ
CREAK
I TOLD YOU TO BE QUIET.
DON'T UPSET ME ANY MORE THAN YOU ALREADY HAVE.
IMPUDENT SLAVES NEEDS TO BE PUNISHED.
SMEAR
SQUELCH
…
クチュッ
SQUELCH
クチュッ
SQUELCH
…?!
クチュ…
SQUELCH
WHA…
キィ
TIGHT

YOU'VE GOTTEN QUITE ACCUSTOMED TO THIS, I SEE.
FLINCH
...!
SQUELCH
THRUST
SMEAR
BUT...
SQUELCH
AH...!
SHLOOP
DON'T TELL ME...
HFFF...
HNGH!
KUH!
!!
SQUELCH
GRIND
YOU WERE ACTUALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS?
GRIT
HFFF...
JOLT
SQUELCH

HAAH!
IN YOUR DREAMS...
AH!
PLUNGE
...!
HEH.
I'M SHOCKED TO HEAR A HOLY KNIGHT MAKE SUCH A WANTON SOUND.
HAH...
AH...
EVEN IF...
RIGHT NOW...
HAAH...
TWITCH
THRUST
CREAK
GRK
GRK
YOU LOOK MUCH MORE LIKE...
MY TOY.

HAAH!
WAI...
THRUST
...!!
HAH...
...!!
NO...
NGH!
LURCH
CHILL
AH!
THRUST
GUH!
NGH!
TWITCH
AH!
JOLT
NGH!
AH!
THRUST


GUH!
CREAK
TRMBL
SMACK
GRIT
SMACK
SMACK
HNGH!
NGH!
KUH!
NGH!
CREAK
CREAK

CREAK
NGH!
WA!...
...!
I THOUGHT I WAS READY FOR ANYTHING.
AH...!
AH!
CREAK
AH!

HAH...
I'M BEING TAKEN AGAINST MY WILL BY THE ENEMY...
SO WHY...
HAH...
BUT THIS...
SQZ
TWITCH
AH...!
JIZZ
TWITCH

...DOES IT FEEL SO GOOD?
...
TWITCH
SLIP
TWITCH
TRMBL
BLORP
SHWF
AH...
SQUIRT
...!
NGH
GLOP

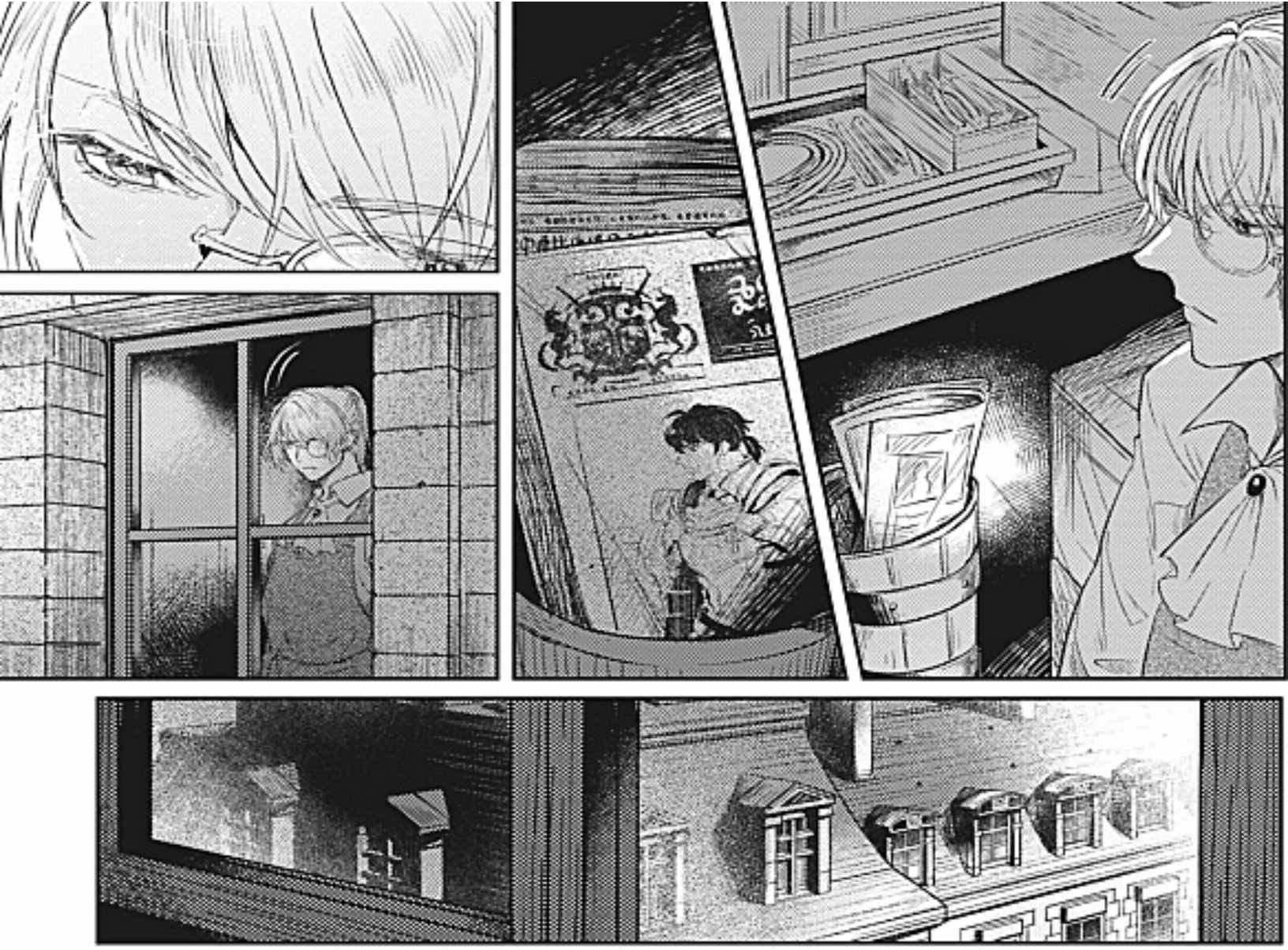
HAAH.
HAAH.
DO YOU WANT TO RETURN...
TO YOUR COUNTRY THAT BADLY?

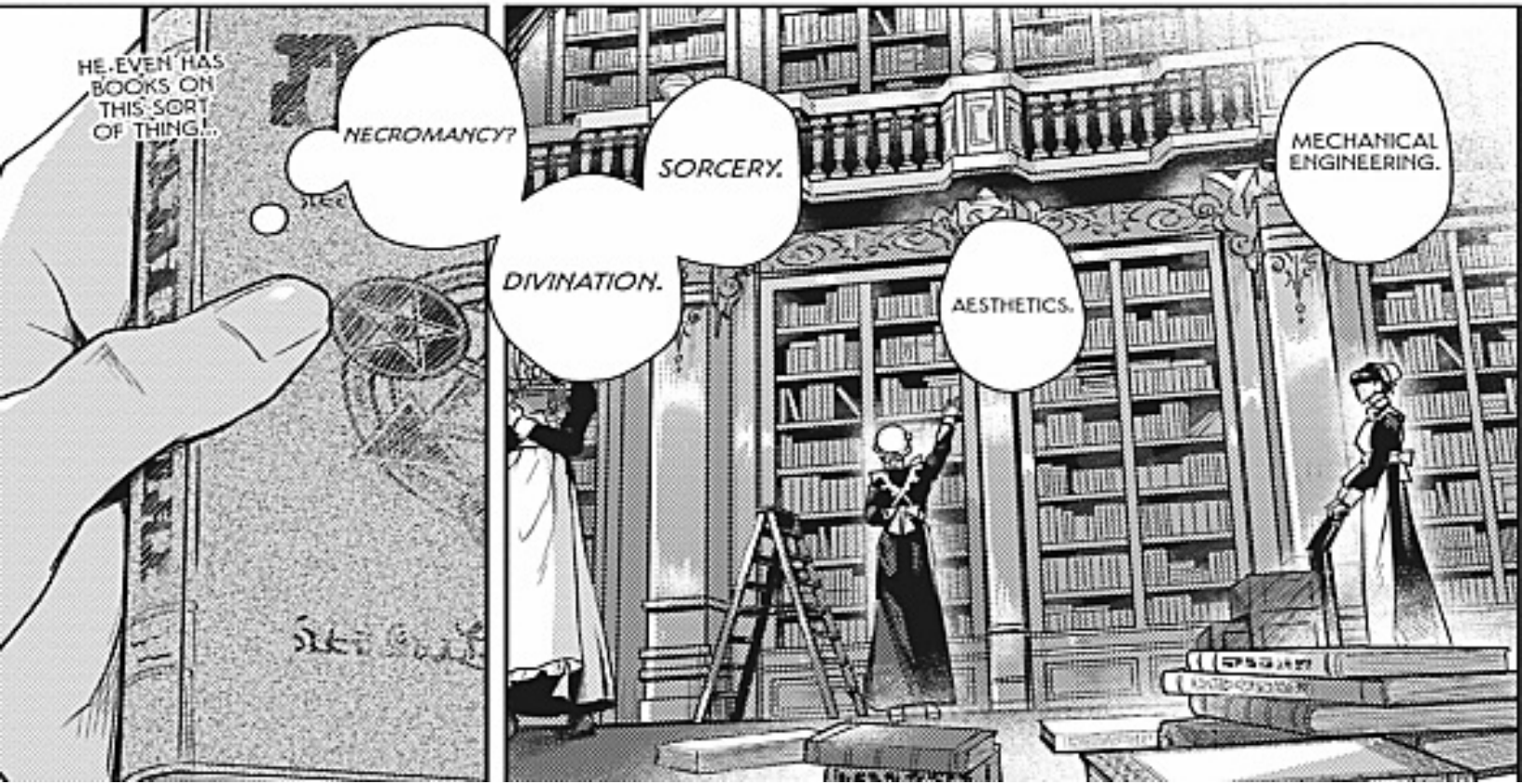
NEVER GO INTO THAT BASEMENT ROOM AGAIN.
...

NEXT TIME...
YOU'LL BE THROWN INTO A CELL INSTEAD.

Chapter 3

PRODUCTION IS GOING WELL.
NEXT IS...

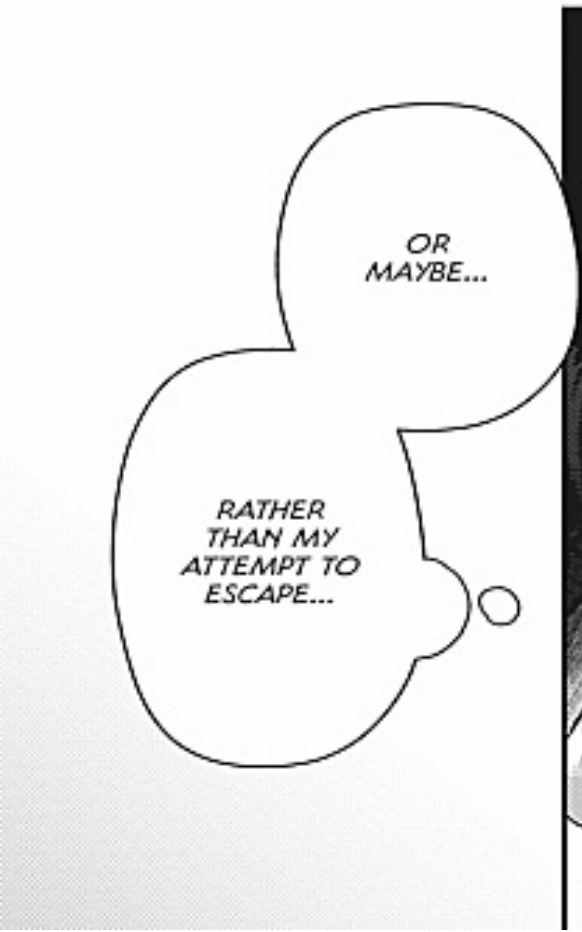



HE EVEN HAS BOOKS ON THIS SORT OF THING!...
NECROMANCY?
SORCERY.
DIVINATION.
AESTHETICS.
MECHANICAL ENGINEERING.

NO MATTER HOW MUCH I ORGANIZE, IT JUST NEVER ENDS...
散らかり
MESS
AND FOR SOME REASON, HE STOPPED SUMMONING ME TO HIS ROOM AT NIGHT.
DID HE GET SICK OF ME? OR...
IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOWED...
I NEVER FOUND A MEANS OF ESCAPE.

コト。
CLUNK
THEN HE SHOULD HAVE CHAINED ME UP AND LOCKED ME AWAY FROM THE START.

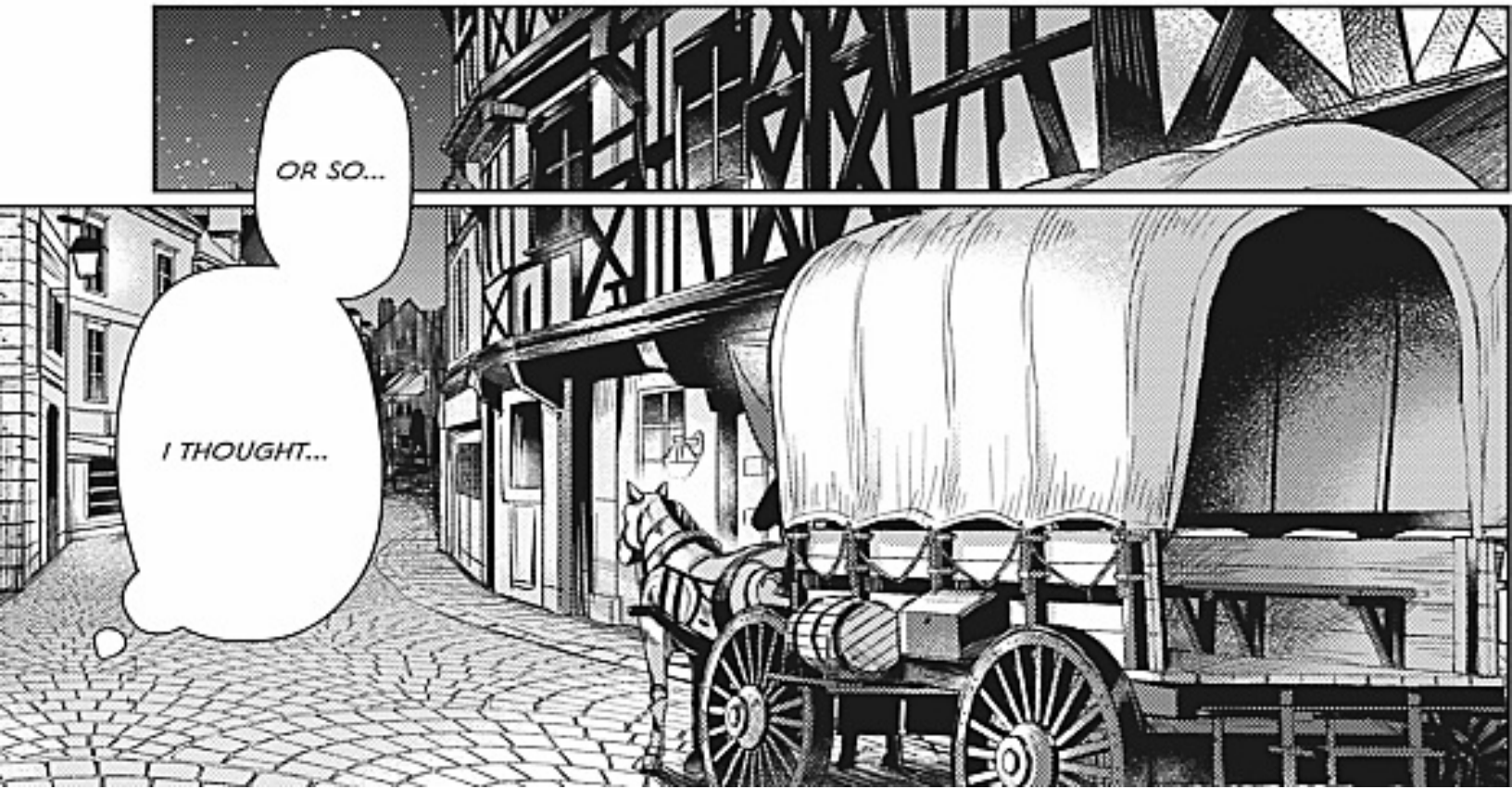
...DID I HIT A NERVE THAT DAY?


OR MAYBE...
RATHER THAN MY ATTEMPT TO ESCAPE...

PAUSE
ピ。
ア。

BUT THAT FACE HE MADE...
...IT WAS THE FACT THAT I HAD TRESPASSED IN THAT ROOM THAT ANGERED HIM TO SUCH DEPTHS?
I STILL THINK OF THAT MAN AS MY HATED ENEMY...
BUT...
HEY.
ひょこ PEEK
HAH...

YEAH, YEAH.
HE'S SUMMONING ME? IN OTHER WORDS...
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME.
MASTER CHRIS IS SUMMON-ING YOU.
GET YOURSELF READY.
QUIT SLACKING.
I SUPPOSE IT WAS FOOLISH TO EXPECT MY PEACEFUL NIGHTS TO LAST.


OR SO...
I THOUGHT...

ZSH
WHAT'S WITH THIS SUDDEN CHANGE OF PACE?
CHATTER
CHATTER
ASKING ME TO ACCOMPANY YOU OUTSIDE...
TRUDGE
CHATTER
TRUDGE
WEREN'T YOU MISSING THE FRESH AIR?
DON'T LET YOUR MASTER'S EFFORTS AT SHOWING CONSIDERATION GO TO WASTE.
AND WALK MORE LIKE A SLAVE.
CHATTER

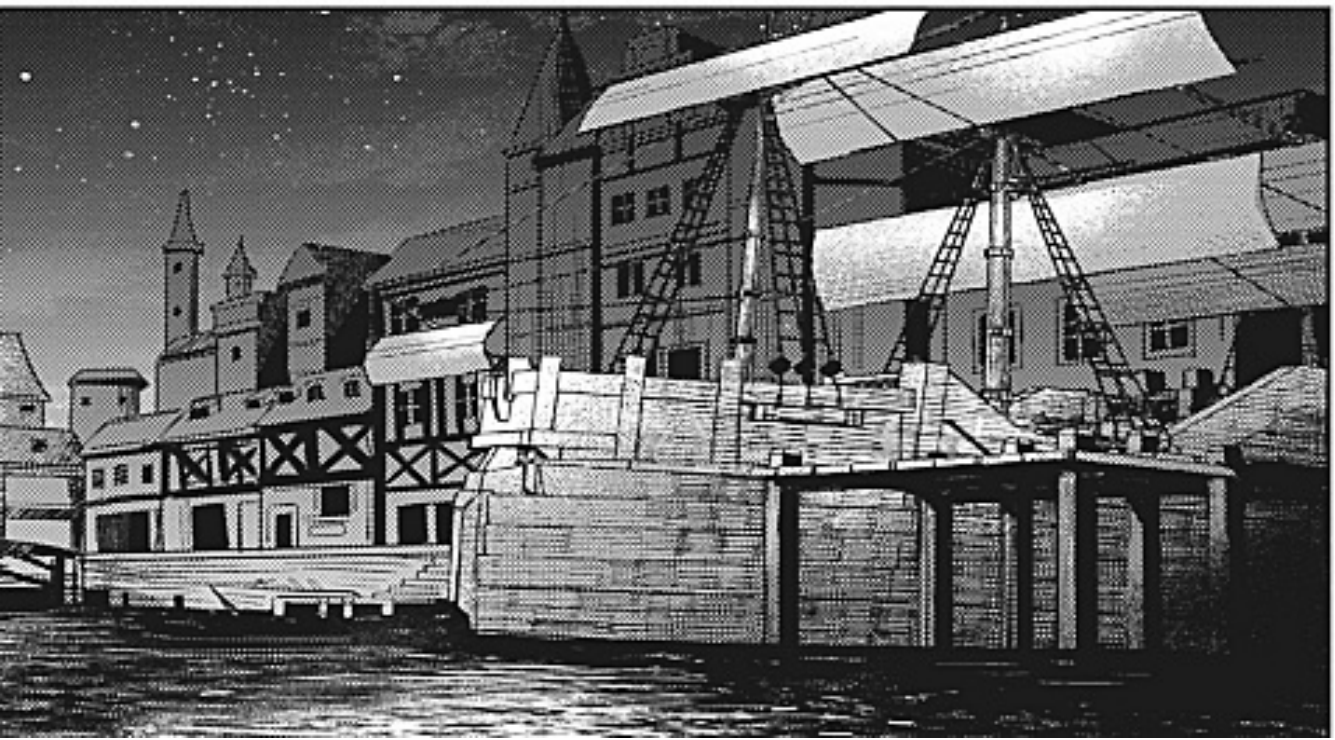
TRUDGE
YOU'RE JUST TAKING ME OUT FOR A WALK LIKE YOU WOULD A DOG.
TRUDGE
CLINK
CONSIDE-RATION?
JANGLE
WELL, WELL.
YOU'D COMPARE YOURSELF TO A DOG?
HOW APT OF YOU.
...
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER
WOO
FWAP

NOW. NOW. DON'T BARE YOUR TEETH SO. RELAX.
THIS OUGHT TO BE A FASCINATING SIGHT FOR YOU. NO?
GETTING TO LOOK AT THE STATE OF OUR COUNTRY...
YOU MAY BE TEMPTED TO GIVE UP THE DREAM OF GOING BACK TO YOUR OWN.

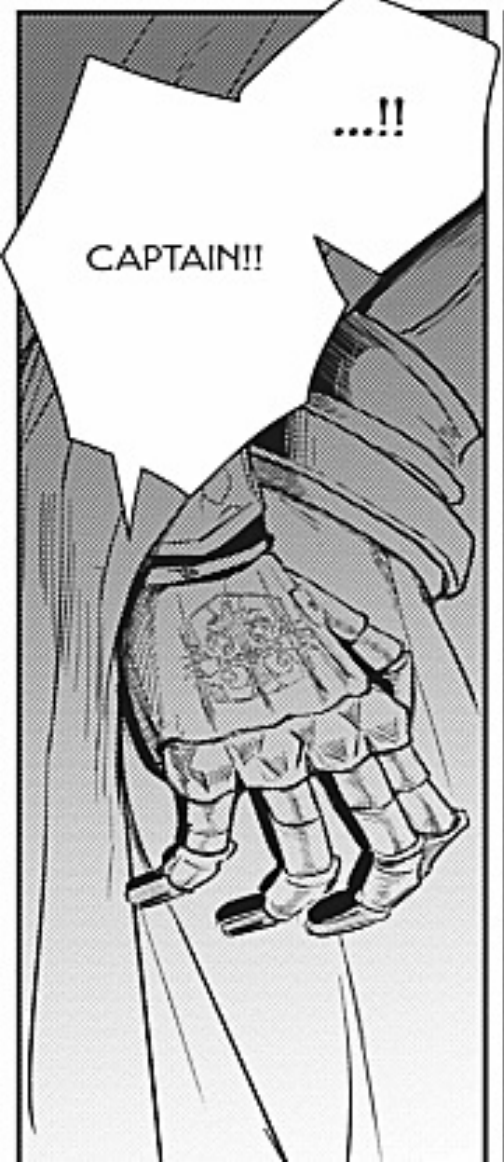
IT'S TRUE. THIS IS A PROSPEROUS COUNTRY.
ピタ
PAUSE
I CANNOT DENY THAT...
THE TRUTH OF THE MATTER IS THAT YOU SAVED MY LIFE.
BUT EVEN SO, DON'T UNDERESTI-MATE ME.

I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN...
AS A KNIGHT OF MY KINGDOM...
I SWEAR I WILL NEVER GIVE IN TO YOU.
GRP
MY LIKE-MINDED COMPA-TRIOTS.
AND...
THE PEOPLE OF MY COUNTRY WHO EVEN NOW ARE PROBABLY SUFFERING...

FOLLOW ME.



CREAK


...!!
CAPTAIN!!

...?
A WAREHOUSE?
WHAT DID YOU BRING ME HERE FOR?
カシャ!
CLIK
カシャ!
CLIK

?!
THIS VOICE...
YOU REALLY ARE ALIVE!
THRONG

DASH
ANDREW?! AND EVERYONE ELSE!
THE ROYAL KNIGHTHOOD...
YES!
WE ALL GOT HOME SAFE AND SOUND ABOUT TEN DAYS AGO.
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE ALL OKAY!

THIS IS ENEMY TERRITORY.
BUT WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
I SEE... THAT'S GREAT.
FWAP
PHEW!
チラ GLANCE
YES.
I HAD THEM AGREE...
TO THE TRANSFER OF CUSTODY TOO.
THAT YOU'RE ACTUALLY ALIVE...
WE CAME WHEN WE HEARD THE NEWS...

YOU DON'T SAY. AT LAST...
STILL. THIS IS JUST WHAT I WANTED!
WHY ALL OF A SUDDEN?
HE MEANS I CAN GO BACK HOME?
TRANSFER OF CUSTODY?

MURMUR
ザワ..

NOTHING WOULD MAKE ME HAPPIER...
THAN GETTING TO GO HOME WITH YOU GUYS!

I'M SORRY, BUT... YOU CAN'T COME HOME WITH US.
SHNKT
CAPTAIN.
YOU REALLY HAVEN'T BEEN INFORMED OF ANYTHING.
SWF

WE'VE COME...
TO KILL YOU.
SHNKT
GRAB
...?!
WHA...

ANDREW.
WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS?!
GRP
THEY WANT YOU KILLED HERE...
AS A "TRAITOR."
ORDERS FROM ABOVE... I'M SURE YOU CAN GUESS WHO THAT MEANS.
SCUFF
YOU BE QUIET.
ALL I DID WAS TELL THEM THAT YOU WERE ALIVE.
SHNKT
DON'T GET THE WRONG IDEA.
ギロッ
GLARE
FROM ABOVE...?
YOU CAN'T MEAN...

THE DISSATISFACTION OF THE POPULACE HAS FINALLY LED TO DISTRUST OF THE KING AND THOSE IN POWER.
AFTER THE LAST WAR, OUR COUNTRY'S POVERTY HAS ONLY GOTTEN WORSE.
IT CAN'T BE HELPED...
THE HIGH-RANKING OFFICIALS, FEARING THE LOSS OF THEIR AUTHORITY AND WISHING TO SAVE THEIR OWN SKIN WHILE MAINTAINING THEIR RULE...
PLACED ALL THE BLAME FOR THE DEFEAT ON YOU.
CLAIMING THAT THE REASON WHY WE LOST THE WAR WAS BECAUSE OF "THE GENERAL'S TRAITOROUS DEEDS."
"VARIOUS PLOTS TO UNDERMINE THE ROYAL FAMILY"
"HE ABANDONED HIS FAITH AND SOLD OUT HIS COUNTRY"

THAT'S RIDICULOUS!
I NEVER BETRAYED THE COUNTRY!
BAH
I KNOW. BUT...
HOW DID YOU ESCAPE PUBLIC EXECUTION?
YOU CAN'T DENY THE RUMORS THAT YOU WERE ON THEIR SIDE.

SLUMP
KUH!
WHETHER IT'S TRUE OR NOT IS OF NO CONSEQUENCE.
ALL OF OUR COMRADES WHO OBJECTED HAVE ALREADY BEEN PURGED.
TUG
WE'VE BEEN TASKED WITH SILENCING YOU ONCE AND FOR ALL.
PRESS
OOF...!

SWF
AND SO... CAPTAIN.
DON'T RESIST... YOU DIE HERE.
GRP
DON'T DO IT, ANDREW...
...!
IF YOU ARE A KNIGHT OF THE KINGDOM...
THEN YOU OUGHT TO BE READY TO GIVE YOUR LIFE FOR YOUR COUNTRY!

THE DAY THAT I WAS BROUGHT IN TO BECOME A KNIGHT...
WAS THE FIRST TIME...
I FELT BLESSED TO HAVE BEEN BORN.

I YEARNED TO BE USEFUL.
TO BE WANTED.
BOTH THE STRUGGLE TO TAKE A LIFE AND THE FEAR OF HAVING MINE TAKEN.
I COULD KILL ANYONE AND EVERYONE...
IF IT WAS FOR THAT PURPOSE.
FOR THE COUNTRY.
FOR ITS PEOPLE.

FOR MY COMRADES...
ピン TING
ｱﾞ.. GRK
GWEH...
ZWIP

CLANG
SO THIS IS WHAT ALL THOSE KNIGHTS AMOUNT TO?
WHAT A BORE.

DON'T YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY?
FWT

...
キッ
GLARE
...!
グッ
REEL
YANK

SWF
CLACK
KOFF!
WHUMP
WHA...
MOUNT
TUG
WHAT ARE YOU...?

I HAVEN'T HAD ENOUGH FUN.
HAVE SEX WITH ME HERE AND NOW.
GRIT
...FSS...
HOW CAN YOU EVEN SUGGEST...
IN A PLACE... LIKE THIS...
WOULD YOU HAVE PREFERRED THAT THEY WATCHED?

GRAB
HOW... DARE YOU!
...!
WHY ARE YOU STILL RESISTING?
YOU HAVE NO COUNTRY TO RETURN TO.
DID YOU WANT ME TO LET YOU DIE INSTEAD?
AT THIS POINT, YOU STILL VALUE THEIR LIVES? DON'T LIE TO YOURSELF.
...!
EVEN SO, YOU...
KILLED... MY...!
GRP

IF YOU REALLY ONLY WANT TO SERVE YOUR FELLOW MAN...
YOU'D HAVE REJOICED IN YOUR SACRIFICE AND ACCEPTED THEIR TERMS.

IT ALL COMES DOWN TO ONE'S FEAR OF DEATH.

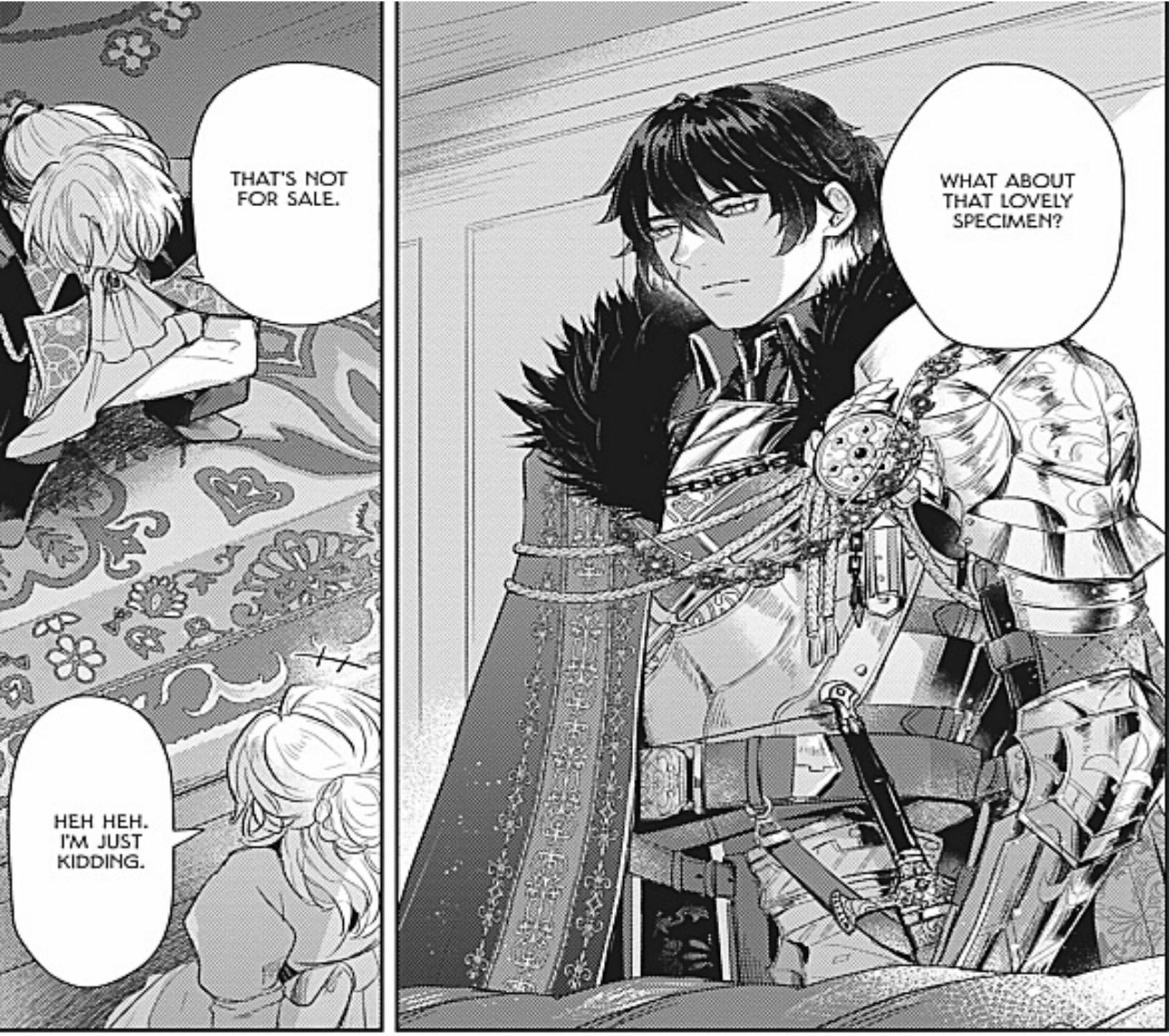
IN THE FACE OF A PERSON'S DESIRES. FAITH IS NOTHING BUT AFFECTATION.

PATRIOTISM. FAITH. CA-MARADERIE...
THERE'S NO FURTHER NEED TO CLING TO THOSE THINGS IN ORDER TO LIVE.
I DON'T BLAME YOU FOR IT.
BUT DON'T WORRY.

YOU'RE SPECIAL, GILBERT.
THAT'S WHY YOU SHOULD BE MINE.
OFFER UP YOUR SOUL TO ME.
BECAUSE I AM THE ONLY ONE NOW...
WHO CAN MAKE YOUR LIFE WORTHWHILE.

Chapter 4

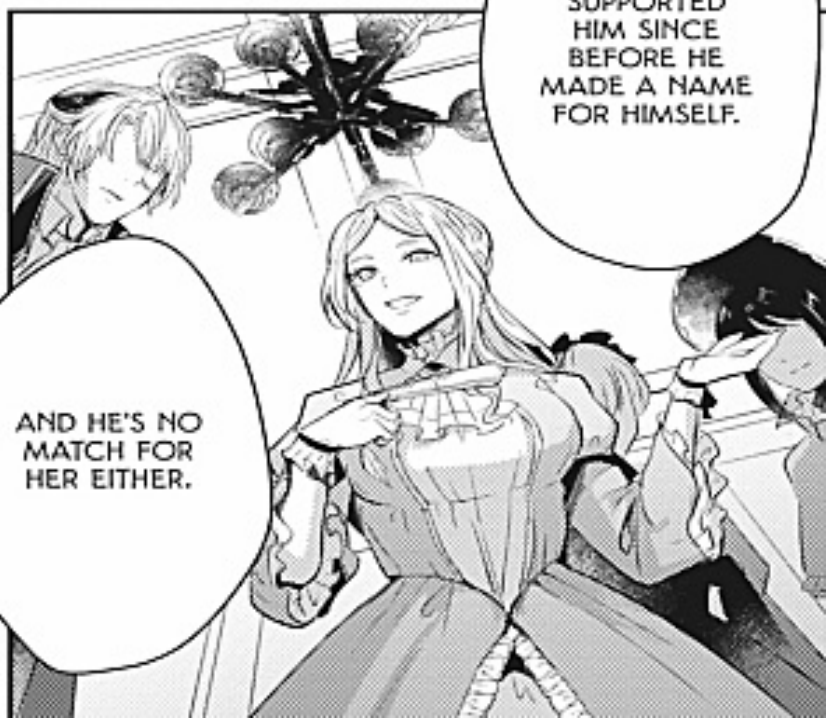
THIS ONE...
AND THIS ONE TOO!
OOH... AND THEM!
とり
うっ
SWOON
THEY'RE WONDERFUL!
AS ALWAYS, YOU ONLY PRODUCE WORKS OF ART. CHRIS.
OF COURSE.
BY THE WAY...
チラ
GLANCE


THAT'S NOT FOR SALE.
HEH HEH. I'M JUST KIDDING.
WHAT ABOUT THAT LOVELY SPECIMEN?

HAAH...
NO.
I WANT YOU TO.
CLIK
I'LL HAVE MY DOLLS SHOW YOU TO THEM.
WE'RE STILL TALKING BUSINESS...
AH!
CLIK
HOW ARE THOSE OTHER ONES I ORDERED COMING ALONG? I'D LOVE TO SEE.

GOOD GRIEF...
OH, DEAR...
I'M SORRY MY WIFE IS SO FUSSY.
SHE'S A HUGE FAN OF CHRIS.
SHE'S EVEN SUPPORTED HIM SINCE BEFORE HE MADE A NAME FOR HIMSELF.

IT'S NOT...
A PROBLEM...


AND HE'S NO MATCH FOR HER EITHER.

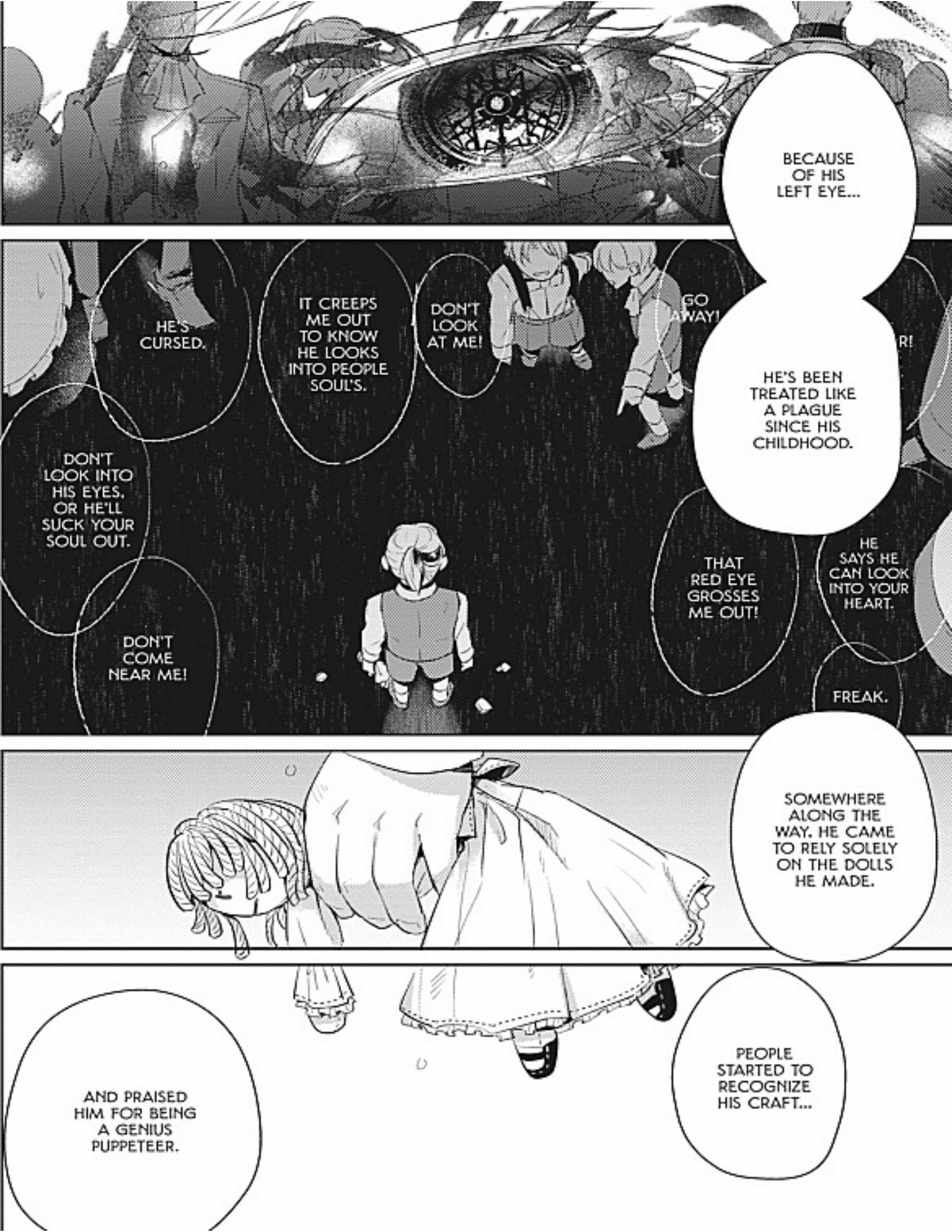
I HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO.
AFTER ALL...
HAVE YOU GOTTEN USED TO LIVING IN THIS CASTLE?
YOU SOUND JUST LIKE A *DOLL*.
YOU KNOW, WHEN YOU TALK LIKE THAT...
I HAVE NO PLACE TO GO HOME TO.
...
AND REALLY BECOME HIS DOLL?
THEN WHY NOT GIVE IT UP...
HMM...
CLINK

THE REASON WHY CHRIS WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO BRING YOU TO YOUR MEN...
WAS BECAUSE HE THOUGHT IT WAS THE ONLY WAY TO MAKE YOU BELIEVE.
GRANTED. HIS SLAUGHTER OF THEM ALL WAS GOING A BIT FAR...
ペラ..
FWAP

WE HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE KINGDOM'S TREATMENT OF YOU AS A DISPOSABLE PAWN.
I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW...

MANY ARISTOCRATS DID NOT LIKE THE SUPPORT THAT COMMONERS SHOWED TOWARD ME.
THIS WAS PROBABLY MORE CONVENIENT FOR THEM.
I KNOW.
I NO LONGER BLAME HIM FOR THAT.
THOUGH I WAS ONCE A CAPTAIN. I REALIZE I WAS NOTHING MORE THAN A FORMER ORPHAN MADE INTO A SOLDIER. THEN A SACRIFICIAL PAWN.

ONCE HE'S MADE UP HIS MIND ABOUT SOMETHING. HE'S HARD-PRESSED TO CHANGE IT. BUT CHRIS HAS HIS STANDARDS TOO.
HE'S NEVER ONCE FORCED SOMEONE TO BECOME A DOLL AGAINST THEIR WILL.
WELL. YOU SHOULD THINK LONG AND HARD ABOUT WHAT YOU WANT TO DO AFTER THIS.
I'M HIS FRIEND. WE'VE KNOWN EACH OTHER OUR WHOLE LIVES. AND THERE'S NO ESCAPING ONE OTHER.
YOU SURE KNOW A LOT ABOUT HIM.
SO DEVOTED TO CREATING DOLLS?
WHY IS CHRIS...
...


BECAUSE OF HIS LEFT EYE...
HE'S CURSED.
IT CREEPS ME OUT TO KNOW HE LOOKS INTO PEOPLE SOUL'S.
DON'T LOOK AT ME!
GO AWAY!
HE'S BEEN TREATED LIKE A PLAGUE SINCE HIS CHILDHOOD.
DON'T LOOK INTO HIS EYES. OR HE'LL SUCK YOUR SOUL OUT.
DON'T COME NEAR ME!
THAT RED EYE GROSSES ME OUT!
HE SAYS HE CAN LOOK INTO YOUR HEART.
FREAK.
SOMEWHERE ALONG THE WAY. HE CAME TO RELY SOLELY ON THE DOLLS HE MADE.
AND PRAISED HIM FOR BEING A GENIUS PUPPETEER.
PEOPLE STARTED TO RECOGNIZE HIS CRAFT...

EVEN NOW, HE DETESTS PEOPLE.
HE DOESN'T BELIEVE THAT PEOPLE CAN ACCEPT HIM EXCEPT FOR HIS SKILL IN CREATING DOLLS.
...

THAT SUIT OF ARMOR WAS A PRESENT FROM HIM, NO?
HUH?
HE'S AWFULLY FOND OF YOU.
STILL...
HE SAID, "MY BELONGINGS MUST BE ADORNED ACCORDINGLY."
A PRESENT...?
HE ONLY COMMANDED THAT I WEAR THIS WHEN WE HAVE COMPANY.
JUST ANOTHER SHOW OF OWNERSHIP.

YOU DON'T THINK HE MEANT FOR IT TO BE A REMINDER OF YOUR DIGNITY?

I WOULDN'T BE SO SURE ABOUT THAT.
WHEN ALL'S SAID AND DONE, IT SEEMS THAT HE LIKES THAT KNIGHTLY SPIRIT OF YOURS.

JUST THE OTHER DAY. HE WAS GRUMBLING ABOUT...
HOW EVER SINCE THAT INCIDENT. YOU'VE BEEN BORING HIM WITH YOUR LETHARGY.

I DON'T GET HOW HE THINKS.
...
HMM.
I SUSPECT...
IT MEANS THAT HE'S QUITE ATTRACTED TO YOU.

ONLY AS ONE OF HIS PROJECTS, DON'T YOU THINK?
THAT'S...
I'VE NEVER BEFORE SEEN HIM...
SO ATTACHED TO ANOTHER HUMAN.
AH!
CREAK
AH...!
CREAK

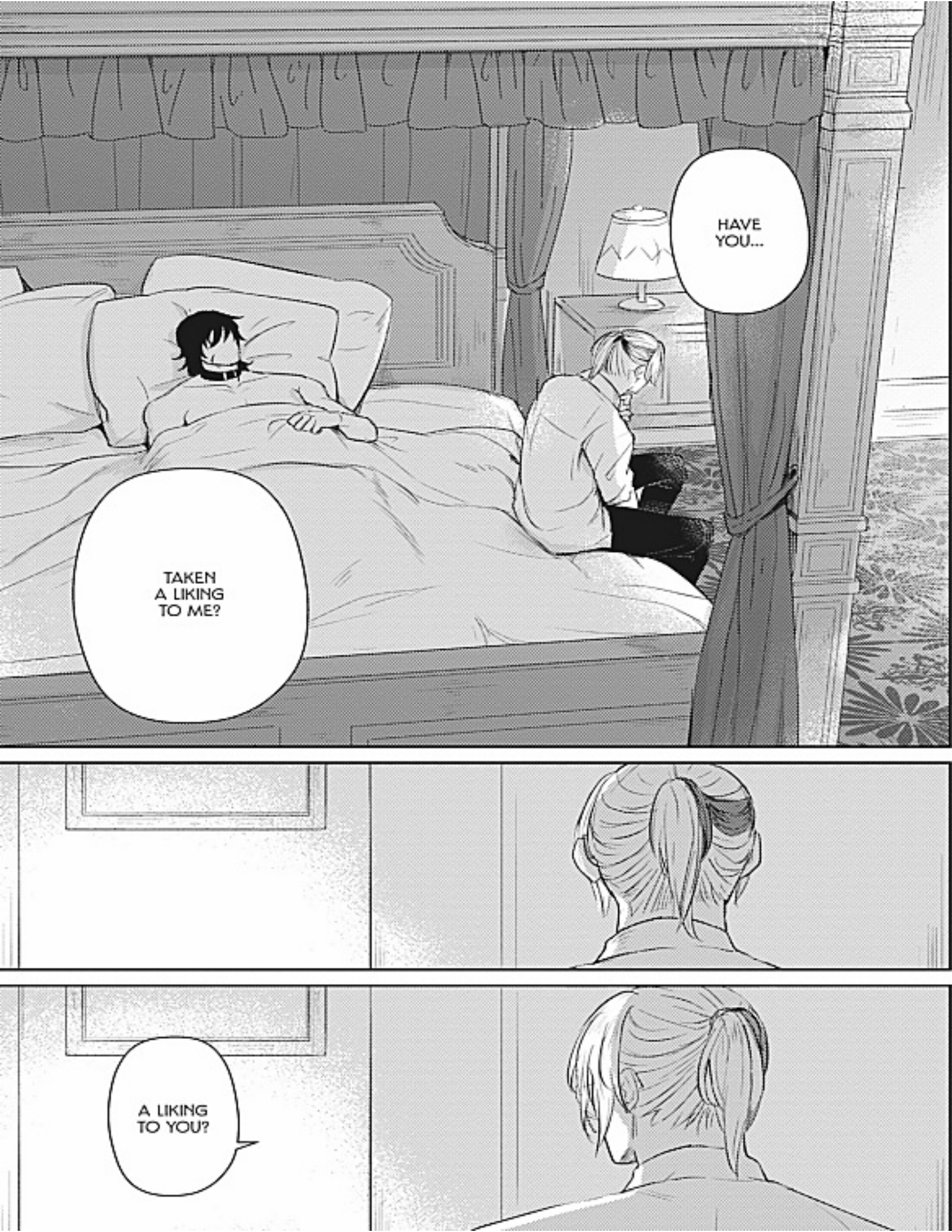
CREAK
THRUST
TWITCH
JOLT
AH...!
CREAK
THRUST
HYAH!
HAH!
NO! AH!
ROCK
THRUST
AH! AAH!
THRUST
HAAH!
AH...!
...!
CREAK
THRUST
ROCK

CHILL
S... TOP...
THRUST
THRUST
NNAH!
AH!
SQUELCH
CREAK
DON'T TOUCH ME... AH!
GRP
AH! AH!
SQUELCH
AAAH!
NOT... THERE!
SQUELCH
SWF
AH!
NGH!
JOLT
CLENCH
SPURT
JOLT
HAAAH.
HAH...
AH!
SPURT
SLIP

HFF...
YOU'VE CERTAINLY...
COME TO MOAN A LOT MORE OPENLY.
HAAH!
HAH...
NGH!
TWITCH
HAH!
...!
STROKE
YOU'RE THE ONE...
YOU MADE ME LIKE THIS...
PULL
CREAK
BLORP

...!
PLUNGE
IT LOOKS TO ME LIKE YOU ENJOY THIS POSITION QUITE A LOT.
GRP
TWITCH
FSS...
THAT'S NOT MY INTENTION...
TWITCH
TWITCH
AH!
NGH!
THRUST
PRESSSS
SQUELCH
AAH!
CLENCH
THRUST
I'M NOT GOING TO SPEND THE REST OF MY LIFE AS YOUR...
HAAAH.
KUH...!
...BEDMATE...
AH!
HAAAH.
IF NOT. THEN...
HFF...

NGH!
...!
AH!
AAH!
FSS...
CREAK
BLINK
...!
SHIFT
CHRIS.
WHAT?


HAVE YOU...
TAKEN A LIKING TO ME?
A LIKING TO YOU?

YOUR FRIEND TOLD ME, HALF TEASINGLY, THAT YOU MIGHT BE ATTRACTED TO ME.
THE REASONING BEHIND THAT...
UM...
WHEN IT COMES DOWN TO IT, YOUR CLAIM THAT "MY SOUL APPEARS BEAUTIFUL"...
IS IT BECAUSE "YOU DESIRE ITS OWNER"?
I JUST FIGURED...
IT WAS A THOUGHT THAT OCCURRED TO ME.

DON'T BE CONCEITED.
INDEED. YOUR SOUL IS BEAUTIFUL.
CREAK
I ENJOY YOU AS MY TOY TOO. BUT...

...I'VE NEVER ONCE TAKEN A LIKING TO A HUMAN BEING.
BESIDES...
THAT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH MY GOALS.
ALL I WANT IS TO MAKE A DOLL OUT OF YOU.
WHY WON'T YOU SHED THAT WORTHLESS PRIDE OF YOURS AND AGREE TO MY PROPOSITION?

I STILL...
NEED SOME TIME.
TO BE HONEST... I DON'T FEEL THE SAME WAY AS I DID AT THE START.
GOD DIDN'T SAVE ME.
AND I CAN'T GO BACK TO MY HOMELAND ANYMORE.

SO IN THAT CASE...
IT'S JUST AS CHRIS SAID IN THE END.
ALL I WANTED WAS TO LIVE.
MAYBE I WAS JUST USING THEM FOR CONVENIENCE...
TO JUSTIFY THAT DESIRE.
THE LOYALTY I HAD TOWARD MY COUNTRY.
MY FAITH.
MY FEELINGS TOWARD MY COMRADES.

IF I BECOME A DOLL, I'LL LOSE ALL HUNGER, PAIN, AND EVEN FEAR OF DEATH.
IT MIGHT BE EASIER IF I JUST RELINQUISH MY HUMAN BODY.
IF ALL I WANT IS TO STAY ALIVE IN THIS WORLD, THEN...
...
BUT...
CRASH
?!
ビュン
JUMP
WHAT THE—?!
FWP

シュウウゥ…
SSSHHH
?!
ボロッ
CRMBL
OOPS...
WOW. I TOTALLY MESSED UP MY EXIT POINT.
WAIT...
WHAT'S THIS? A NEW FACE?
GLOW
ぱっ
ずいっ
CROWD
ビクッ
JUMP
WHAT'S A HUMAN DOING HERE?
WHO IS THIS GUY?! WHERE THE HECK DID HE COME FROM?!

HEY, CHRIS!
AND THE TWINS! HOW Y'ALL DOING?
DON'T MOVE!
YOU!
HOW DARE YOU TRESPASS INTO MASTER CHRIS'S CASTLE!
MARCH
MARCH
WHAT'S ALL THE COM-MOTION?
BAM
DASH

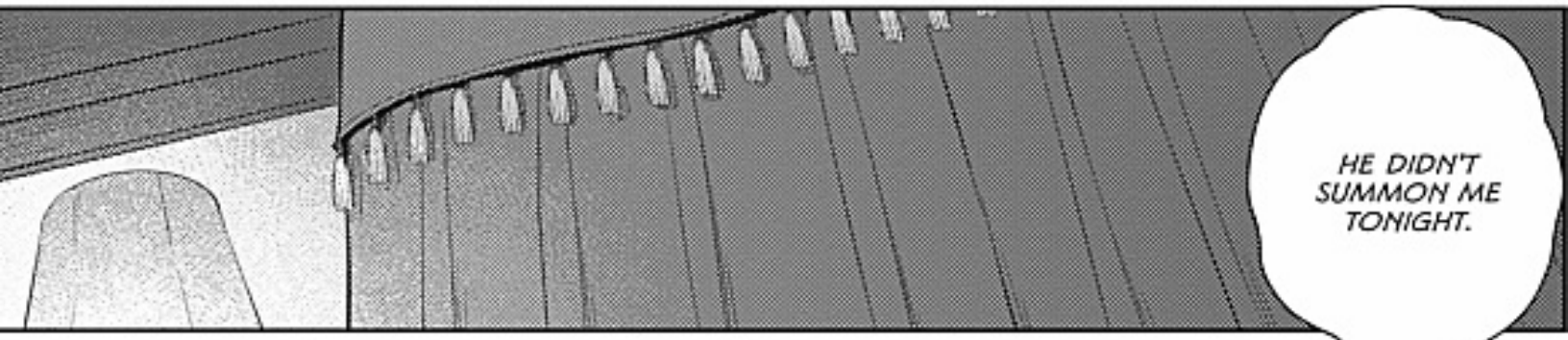
CHUCKLE
CHUCKLE
OBVIOUSLY.
BUT THEN YOU WOULDN'T LET ME IN.
I TOLD YOU BEFORE TO KNOCK AT THE DOOR LIKE A NORMAL PERSON.
DON'T TRESPASS WITHOUT PERMISSION.
UGH
HAAH...
SO IT'S YOU...
LEVI...

LOOM
AH. YOU'RE AS FRIGID AS USUAL.
OH. THAT LOOKS GOOD.
GLOW
?!
MUNCH
GRK
WELL, YOU KNOW...
IT'S BEEN A WHILE. WE'VE GOT SO MUCH CATCHING UP TO DO.
JUST SAY WHAT YOU'VE COME HERE FOR.
HAAH...
IS HE EATING ONE OF THE POWER SOURCE ROCKS?
CRUNCH
MMM. THIS TASTES SURPRISINGLY GOOD.
CRACK
CRUNCH
CREEPED
DON'T EAT THE FURNISHINGS!
TWINS
OUT

...AND ABOUT OUR DEAL...
COMING UP.
COME.
カシ CLIK
カシ CLIK
HMM.
DEAL?
WHO IS THAT GUY?
HE'S A WIZARD CALLED LEVI. A PURE-BLOOD AT THAT...
HE CAN EAT MAGICAL STONES?
THAT'S JUST A QUIRK OF HIS.
AS IF.

A PURE-BLOOD WIZARD? YOU MEAN THE DESTRUCTIVE KIND THAT THREATEN THE WORLD WITH CHAOS?
I THOUGHT THEY WERE ERADICATED LONG AGO.
THAT PERCEPTION IS SOMEWHAT BIASED.
THOUGH ONE THING'S FOR SURE: HE'S A VILE, WICKED MAN IN EVERYTHING HE DOES.
AND HE'S DANGEROUS TOO.
APPARENTLY HE AND MASTER CHRIS GO BACK A LONG WAY, BUT WE CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHY...
WE DON'T LIKE HIM.
NOW, NOW...
MASTER CHRIS KNOWS WHAT HE'S DOING...
STARE
A WIZARD. HE CERTAINLY...

...DOESN'T SEEM LIKE A DECENT PERSON TO ME.



HEY THERE.
にゅっ
ZWOOP
ビク
JUMP
ガタ
KLAT
OOOOH.
NICE REACTION.
I HEARD ABOUT YOU.
YOU'RE THE WRETCHED CAPTAIN OF THE KNIGHTHOOD, AREN'T YOU?
FLIP
HUP.
TMP
DID YOU COME HERE JUST TO MOCK ME?

A DEAL?
I'VE COME TO MAKE A DEAL.
NO, NO. DON'T BE SO ON YOUR GUARD WITH ME.
I'LL GET YOU OUT OF HERE.
AND IN EXCHANGE...
YOU KILL CHRIS.

SMIRK
AREN'T YOU...
A CLOSE FRIEND OF CHRIS'S?
OH, PLEASE! ONLY BECAUSE HE'S ONE OF THE FEW BRETHREN I HAVE.
BUT HE'S MELLOWED OUT SO MUCH LATELY.
HE'S NO FUN!
SO I'VE DECIDED TO CUT TIES WITH HIM.
AND TO TAKE HIS "EYE" AS A SOUVENIR.

YOU'RE CLOSE ENOUGH TO GET AN IN WITH CHRIS.
ZSH
ALL YOU NEED IS THE RIGHT WEAPON...
ZSSHH
SLITTING HIS THROAT AND TAKING HIS EYE SHOULD BE A PIECE OF CAKE.
カラン。
CLANG
WELL?
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
I'M HELPING YOU OUT HERE.

AM I WRONG?
ZSH
DON'T YOU WANT TO AVENGE THEM?
!!?!
CAPTAIN.
CHILL
...YOUR COUNTRY WOULDN'T HAVE LOST THE WAR.
YOU WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN CAPTURED.
AND YOUR FRIENDS WOULDN'T HAVE HAD TO DIE.

LISTEN WELL.
IF IT WEREN'T FOR THE WEAPONIZED DOLLS HE MADE...
AND HIS INSTRUCTIONS...
IF NOT FOR HIS VERY EXISTENCE...

...
YOU'RE SUGGESTING I AVENGE... A COUNTRY I CAN NO LONGER GO BACK TO?
CLENCH IT
NOW, NOW.
ISN'T IT TOO SOON TO GIVE UP?
NOT EVERYBODY BELIEVES THE STORY ABOUT YOUR BETRAYAL.
IF YOU DECEIVE EVEN YOUR OWN PEOPLE AND RETURN HOME AFTER KILLING AN ENEMY ASSET...
YOU'LL BE MADE A HERO!
YOUR NAME WILL BE CLEARED, AND YOU'LL BE ABLE TO RETURN TO YOUR HOMELAND.
YOU'LL ALSO GET TO HAVE YOUR REVENGE!

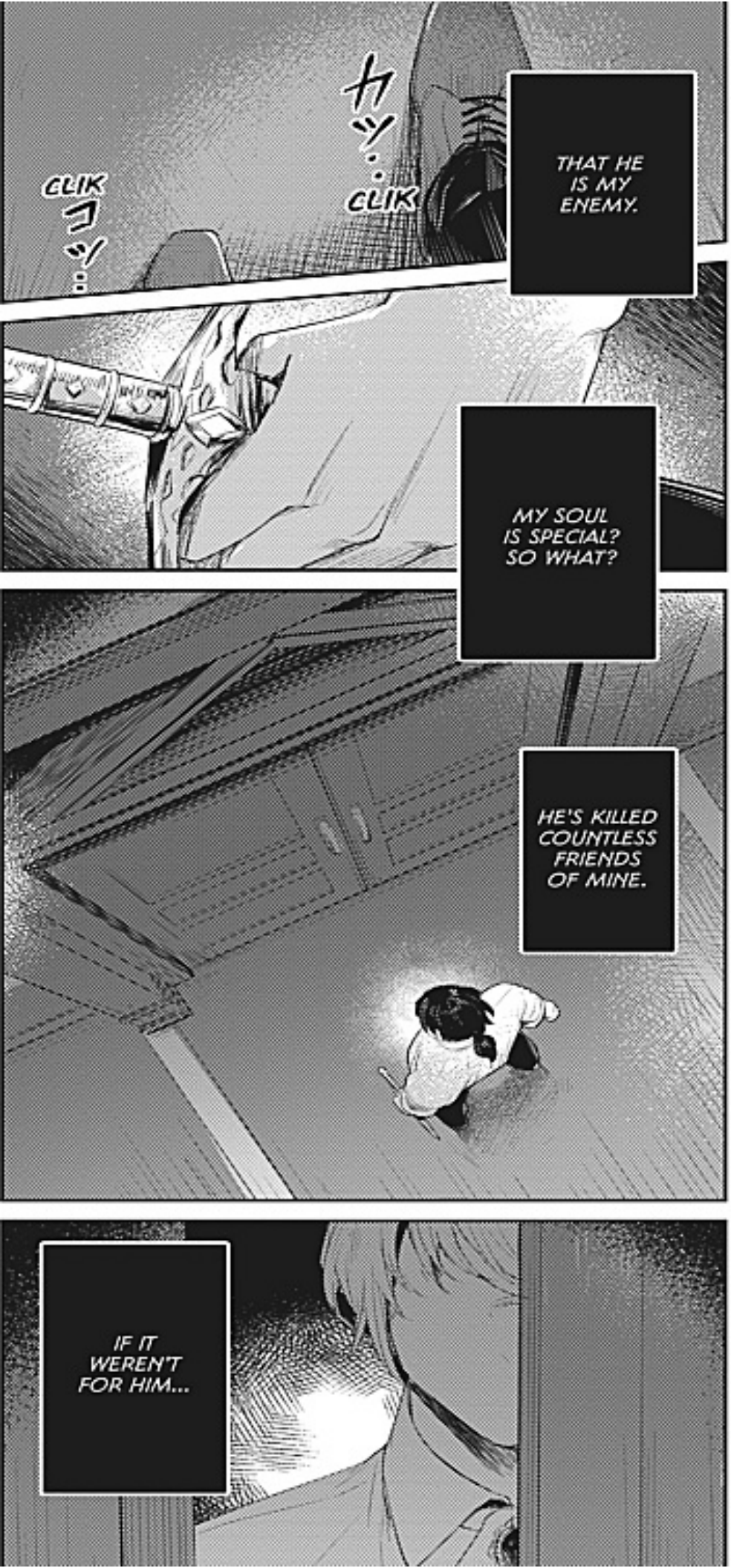
REVENGE?
THOSE IN HIGH POSITIONS OF POWER WHO BETRAYED YOU, WHO LIED TO EVERYONE...
AND CARE ONLY FOR THEIR OWN INTERESTS: YOU CAN KILL THEM ALL.
I'M NOT WILLING TO TAKE HIS LIFE TO ACHIEVE THAT!
REFORM THAT CORRUPTED COUNTRY WITH YOUR OWN TWO HANDS.
THIS TIME, YOU WILL BECOME A HERO IN THE TRUEST SENSE OF THE WORD.

HMM? WELL, THEN...
I'LL TELL YOU SOMETHING...
ABOUT HIS PAST.
YOU KNOW HOW THERE'S A SPECIAL DOLL DOWN IN HIS BASEMENT?
BASE-MENT?
YOU MEAN THAT FEMALE DOLL?
YEP!
SHE'S A DOLLY THAT'S REEEEALLY IMPORTANT TO CHRIS.

HE SACRIFICED TONS OF PEOPLE TO CREATE HER.
TO SATISFY HIS OWN SELF INTERESTS...
HE COLLECTED AND SACRIFICED MORE THAN A THOUSAND INNOCENT SOULS.
WHY WOULD HE...?
BECAUSE TO HIM...
OTHER PEOPLE'S LIVES ARE NOTHING MORE THAN TOOLS.
BDMP

HEY...
SHOULD YOU REALLY YIELD TO WHAT THAT MAN DESIRES?
KILLING PEOPLE AND COMMITTING ATROCITIES.
THERE'S NOTHING HE WON'T DO IN ORDER TO FULFILL HIS GOALS.
THIS IS YOUR ONE SHOT AT BEING ABLE TO GO HOME TO YOUR COUNTRY.
WHAT WILL YOU DO?
KLNK
カチ
NOW.
SWF

Chapter 5


CLIK
CLIK
CLIK
THAT HE IS MY ENEMY.
MY SOUL IS SPECIAL? SO WHAT?
HE'S KILLED COUNTLESS FRIENDS OF MINE.
IF IT WEREN'T FOR HIM...

I'LL NEVER FORGET...

...!...
CREAK
ギィ...
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
スッ
SWF
TALK?
TO TALK.
AH!

SWISH
ピシ
PSSHT
HUH?
ピキ
PLINK
POP
パキ
CRMBL

GRIN
WEREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO KILL THAT GUY?
ZSH
WHAAAAT THE HECK?
DON'T SCARE ME LIKE THAT.
CRICK

AND NO MATTER WHAT YOU PROPOSE TO ME...
THERE'S NO PROOF THAT ANYTHING YOU SAY IS TRUE.

...I HAVE NO INTENTION OF FALLING FOR YOUR POISONOUS WORDS.
HEE HEE... YOU'RE A STRANGE ONE.
RIGHT, CHRIS?
I...
WARNED YOU...
HUH?
キィ
TIGHT
TUG
I CAN SEE WHY HE CAUGHT YOUR EYE.

GRK
GRK
WHOA. WHOA.
DON'T BE MAD.
CREAK
...NOT TO TOUCH THIS MAN.
TIGHT
IF HE MEANS THAT MUCH TO YOU, LOCK HIM UP SOMEWHERE SAFE.
RIP
TING
LIKE THAT WOMAN...
SPLAT
ACK.
PLOP
BE GONE.
I HAVE NOTHING MORE TO SAY TO YOU.
ZSH

グチャ
SHLORSH
HEE HEE...
AWW. OKAY OKAY.
I'M LEAVING.
DRIP
AND I CAME WITH SUCH A SWEET DEAL FOR YOU.
GLOP
SEE YOU, CAPTAIN.
GLOP
WELL...
YOU CERTAINLY DOTE OVER HIM.
SPLASH
ハニャッ

STILL...
I'M IMPRESSED HE FAILED TO TEMPT YOU.
HE GOT AWAY...
HAAH...
HE'S AS AGGRAVATING AS EVER.
WHY DIDN'T YOU...
KILL ME AND ESCAPE?

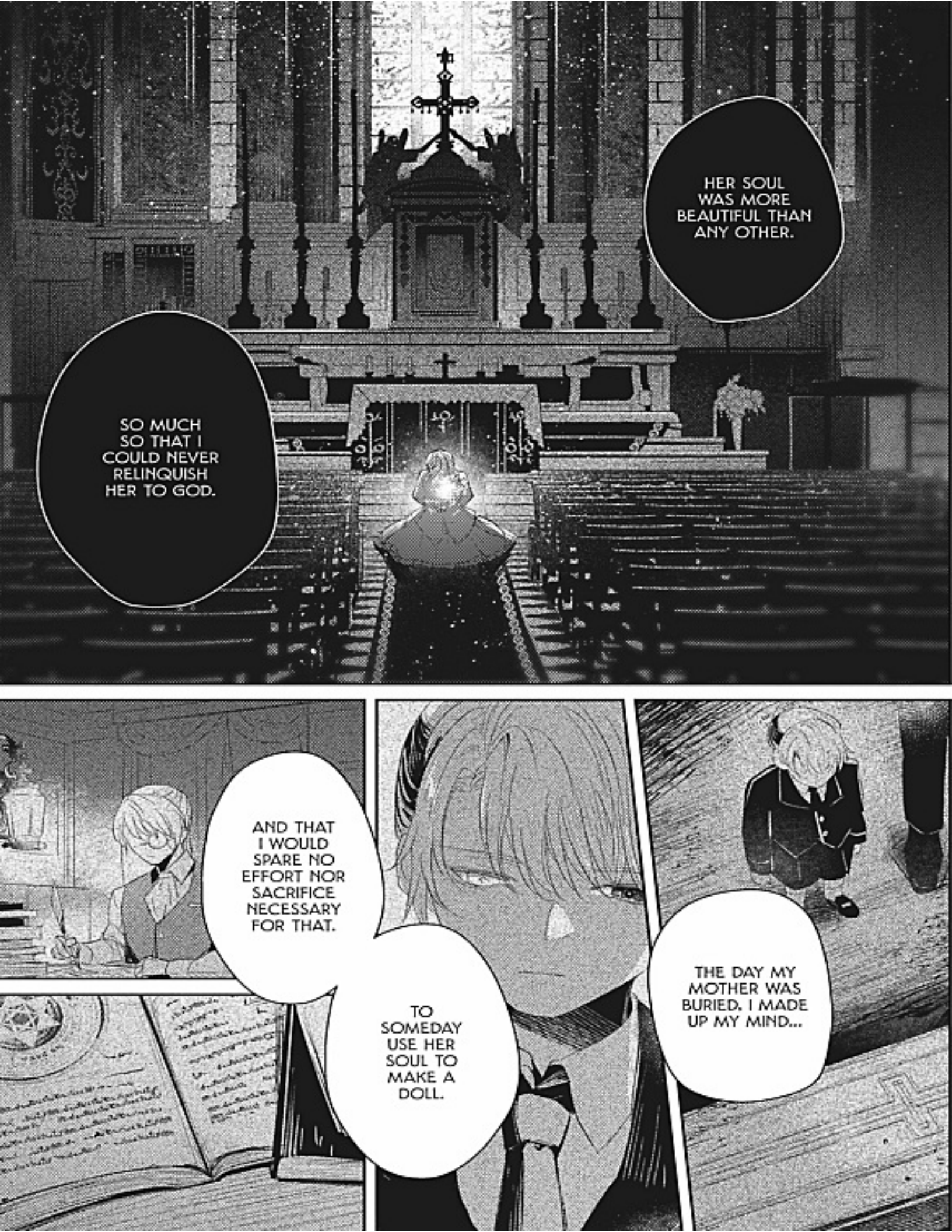
EVEN IF I WERE TO RUN AWAY AND BE FREE...
FWP
WHAT WOULD BE LEFT FOR ME?
CLIK
カツ..
WITHOUT MY DUTY TO FIGHT FOR THE PEOPLE...
SHNKT
GRP
BESIDES...
AND NO MORE FRIENDS TO PROTECT.
I'VE SPENT TOO MUCH TIME WITH YOU...
TO JUST KILL YOU.

THAT SOUNDS LIKE A COMPLAINT.
チャキ CHNK
SWF スッ
MAYBE IT IS.
BUT I DON'T WANT TO HEAR IT FROM THAT MAN...
I WANT TO KNOW THE TRUTH IN YOUR OWN WORDS.
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO HEAR?
WHAT WAS THE DEAL YOU STRUCK WITH LEVI?
AND WHO IS THAT FEMALE DOLL IN THE BASEMENT?

SHE IS...
MY MOTHER.
MOTHER...?
THEN WHY...?
MY MOTHER WAS A DEVOUT BELIEVER WHO CAME FROM YOUR COUNTRY.
THOUGH SHE MARRIED FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES...
SHE HAD A HAPPY MARRIAGE AND WAS BLESSED WITH MUCH JOY.

UNTIL I WAS BORN.
MY MOTHER WAS CHARGED WITH INFIDELITY. AND IN THE END...
RED EYES ARE CONSIDERED AN ABOMINATION. BORN AS A RESULT OF FORNICATION WITH THE DEVIL.
SHE LOST EVERYTHING AND WAS DRIVEN OUT.

FOR YEARS AFTER THAT, MY MOTHER WAS ILL...
SHE DIED, MAD WITH LONELINESS.
SHE LEFT ME, A YOUNG BOY, WITH CURSED WORDS OF RESENTMENT.
IF ONLY THAT CHILD...
HAD NEVER BEEN BORN.
AND YOU RESURRECTED HER AS A DOLL?
WHY? FOR REVENGE?
NO.
IT'S IRONIC, BUT...


HER SOUL WAS MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN ANY OTHER.
SO MUCH SO THAT I COULD NEVER RELINQUISH HER TO GOD.
AND THAT I WOULD SPARE NO EFFORT NOR SACRIFICE NECESSARY FOR THAT.
TO SOMEDAY USE HER SOUL TO MAKE A DOLL.
THE DAY MY MOTHER WAS BURIED. I MADE UP MY MIND...

AS TIME WENT BY AND I GOT OLDER, I LEARNED THE METHOD FOR TRANSFERRING THE SOULS OF THE LIVING INTO DOLLS.
BUT I STILL COULD NOT DO THE SAME FOR THE SOULS OF THE DECEASED.
"I WILL GRANT YOU THAT METHOD."
"AND IN EXCHANGE..."
THAT'S WHEN THE WIZARD APPEARED BEFORE ME AND WHISPERED IN MY EAR...

"IF YOU CAN OFFER TO ME COUNTLESS SOULS..."
"YOU WILL BE ABLE TO SUMMON FORTH THE SOULS OF THE DEAD."
"JOIN FORCES WITH ME TO START A WAR AND HUNT DOWN MANY SOULS."
GLADLY, EVEN.
IT WAS FOR THE GOOD OF THE COUNTRY AND FOR A JUST CAUSE.
AND YOU... AGREED TO THAT DEAL.
WOULDN'T YOU AGREE?

THINGS WERE GOING ACCORDING TO OUR PLANS.
IT WAS GOOD TIMING THAT THE PRODUCTION OF MECHANICAL DOLLS INTO SOLDIERS WAS ALREADY UNDERWAY.
HER APPEAR-ANCE...
HER FORM...
AND THE SHINE OF HER HEART...
AND MANY SOLDIERS DIED.
BEFORE THEIR SOULS COULD ASCEND TO HEAVEN, I COLLECTED AND MADE SACRIFICES OUT OF THEM...
UNTIL I HAD AT LAST COMPLETED THAT DOLL.

IT WAS A MASTERPIECE OF UTTER BEAUTY.
BUT...
WHAT POURED FORTH FROM HER WHEN SHE AWOKE...
TO FIND THAT SHE HAD BEEN GIVEN A NEW LIFE...

...TER-
RIBLE...
OF ALL THE...
...WERE WORDS OF DESPAIR.

CAN I NOT EVEN BE GRANTED...
ALL SHE DID WAS WAIL TO GOD.
THE PEACE THAT DEATH BRINGS?

OH...
DEAR GOD...

UNTIL, IN THE END, THE DOLL BECAME IMMOBILE.

AS SHE LAMENTED AND CRIED DAY AFTER DAY, THE SPARKLE OF HER SOUL QUIETLY DIMINISHED.
EVEN IF ONE NEVER EXPERIENCES THE DEATH OF THE FLESH...
WHEN THE HEART IS BROKEN, THE SOUL LOSES ITS STRENGTH AND EVENTUALLY GOES INTO ETERNAL SLEEP.

HAVING GONE TO SUCH LENGTHS... WERE YOU REALLY SATISFIED WITH THAT?
AS A WORK, SHE WAS PERFECT.
BUT IN THE END, THE RESULTS WERE NOT SATISFACTORY.
PERHAPS I FEEL SOME REMORSE.
THE MEANING BEHIND THAT WIZARD'S WORDS TOO.
THE DETAILS SURROUNDING YOUR CREATION OF THAT DOLL.
I SEE.
I GET IT NOW.

YOU LOOK AS THOUGH YOU'VE MADE UP YOUR MIND.
AND HOW YOU WERE BY NO MEANS...
TAMPERING WITH SOULS FOR THE FUN OF IT.
DOES THIS MEAN THAT YOU'VE DECIDED TO BECOME A DOLL?
FINALLY—
BUT DON'T GET THE WRONG IDEA.
IT'S TRUE. AT THIS MOMENT...
I'M THINKING I'D LIKE YOU TO TURN ME INTO A DOLL.

IT'S NOT BECAUSE I DON'T WANT TO DIE.
OR BECAUSE I WANT TO ESCAPE THIS SITUATION.
I DON'T WANT IT FOR ANY REASONS YOU MAY BE IMAGINING.
HUH?
THEN WHY...?
I DON'T APPROVE OF EVERYTHING YOU DO.
BUT...

...I FEEL THAT NOW...
I UNDERSTAND YOU A LITTLE BETTER.

IT WAS BECAUSE I HAD THEIR GENTLE AND WARM PRESENCE IN MY LIFE...
SO THE PEOPLE IN THE MONASTERY WERE MY FAMILY.
I NEVER KNEW MY REAL PARENTS.

THAT I WISHED TO SERVE AS SOMEONE ELSE'S SALVATION IN TURN.
YOUR HEART, WHICH IS HELD UP BY THE FOUNDATION OF THE DOLLS...

AND THE REASON WHY...
YOU COVETED MY SOUL.
SO THIS WILL BE...
AN ACT OF MERCY FOR YOU.
MY LIFE WAS SAVED BY YOU ONCE ALREADY.
SO IF IT WILL SATISFY YOU...
THE LEAST I CAN DO IS GIVE YOU MY SOUL.

"MERCY."
SO HE'LL GIVE ME HIS SOUL OUT OF THAT EMOTION.
I'VE WAITED FOR THIS MOMENT FOR SO LONG.
SO WHY...
DO I NOW FEEL...

...THAT I'M...
TORN?
THIS IS...
FWAP

THAT'S RIGHT.
I CREATED IT TO SERVE AS YOUR VESSEL.
OR...
AT LEAST IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE.
SWF

BUMP

WHA...?
CLANG
WHY...?
BECAUSE I DON'T NEED IT ANYMORE.
YOU'RE SAYING I'M NOT WORTH BEING MADE INTO A DOLL ANYMORE?
NO.

I'VE REALIZED...
THAT YOUR HUMAN HEART...
IS WHAT GIVES YOUR SOUL ITS SPARK.
IT'S TRUE THAT AT THE BEGINNING...
I'D HAVE BEEN GLAD TO MAKE YOU INTO A DOLL.
BUT NOW'S DIFFERENT.
I'M AFRAID...
THAT IF I COMPLETED YOU AS A "DOLL"...
THE BEAUTY OF THAT SOUL THAT I'M SO INFATUATED WITH...
WOULD SOMEDAY BE LOST.

MORE THAN ANYTHING...
YOU'RE THE FIRST PERSON TO EVER TELL ME YOU WANTED TO BE A DOLL...
FOR MY SAKE.
WONDERING IF IT REALLY WAS RIGHT TO MAKE YOU...
INTO A "WORK" LIKE ALL THE OTHERS.
FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER, I WAS AT A LOSS.

I CANNOT...
MAKE YOU INTO A DOLL.
THAT'S WHY RIGHT NOW...
YOU'RE SPECIAL.

NOW... YOU'VE CHANGED YOUR MIND?
THEN WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?
IF YOU NEED A PURPOSE TO LIVE, I'LL GIVE YOU ONE.
I HAVE NOTHING LEFT.
AND NOW NOT EVEN YOU–

FROM NOW ON, STAY BY MY SIDE...
AND LIVE AS MY KNIGHT.
YOU CAN BE MINE...
AS THE ONLY *HUMAN* I'VE EVER ACCEPTED.

WHAT...
ARE YOU SAYING?
I WAS ABANDONED BY MY COUNTRY ALREADY.
AND NOW YOU WANT ME AS YOUR KNIGHT?
YOU EXPECT ME TO LIVE MY LIFE, BELIEVING THAT NONSENSE?

I SWEAR I WILL NEVER ABANDON YOU.
IN FACT. IF YOU EVER TRY TO LEAVE ME...
THAT IS WHEN...
I WILL MAKE YOU A DOLL BY MY VERY OWN HANDS.

PERHAPS THIS WHOLE THING HAS BEEN ABSURD...
FROM THE VERY START.
CAN YOU SWEAR TO THAT?
YES.
NOT TO GOD.
BUT TO YOU.
FINE.
SWF

I TOO SWEAR THAT I WILL LIVE AS YOUR KNIGHT.
BUT IF YOU EVER BREAK YOUR VOW...

...DON'T THINK FOR A MOMENT...
GRP
THAT I'M STICKING AROUND.
HA.
YOU'RE AS PRESUMPTUOUS AS EVER.

ALL RIGHT THEN.
MY KNIGHT.

CREAK
GRAB
SO...
IN THE END...
TUG

IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, YOU CAN RESIST.
...
TUG
HM?
...THIS IS WHAT I CAN EXPECT AT NIGHT?
SWF
CREAK
NGH...
TWITCH
SMEAR
TO THINK THAT YOU WOULD RELINQUISH YOUR BODY NOW.
AH!
JUMP
IT WOULD HAVE BEEN QUITE A SHAME.
MLEM
CHICC
NGH...
SHLICK
SQUELCH
NFF...
PRESS
SQUELCH

KUH...
SUCK
CREAK
AH...
KUH...
QUIT TALKING ALL THE TIME...
SQUELCH
SQUELCH
...!
かあっ...
BLUSH
PLIP
I COULD CALL THIS MY CREATION TOO.
IN A WAY...
れろ
MLEM
SWOON
HAAH...
AH.
HAH...
SO PER-SISTENT.
...!
TRMBL
TWITCH
TWITCH
JUST PUT IT IN ALREADY.
GLOP
PLIP
PLUNGE
AH...!
SQUELCH
NGH...
DRIP
THAT'S ENOUGH.
HAAH...
WINK

AH!
NGH...!
SQUELCH
GRP
AH...
SLIDE
TWITCH
AH!
CREAK
THRUST
NNGH!
NNGH...!
TWITCH
TWITCH
THRUST
SHIVER
AH!
HAH...!
AAH...!
SHIVER
THRUST

AH!
CREAK
SMACK
!
SMACK
AH!
SMACK
CREAK
AAH!
HAAH...
...!
HAAH!
HAH...
HAAH!
THAT REMINDS ME...
WAI...!
SPURT
AH!
SLOW DOWN!
SQUELCH
HAAH...
NO...
SWF
IF IT'S HURTING YOU, I CAN TAKE IT OFF...
YOU DON'T NEED THIS PROOF OF YOUR SLAVERY ANYMORE.
SWF

GRP
IT CAN STAY.

KEEP GOING.
HAH...
HURRY.

MM...
IS THIS LOVE?
FOR SOMETHING THAT'S NOT A DOLL...?

TO THINK THE DAY WOULD FINALLY COME WHEN I HOLD SUCH FEELINGS.

LATELY, CHRIS HAS DONE SOMETHING HE'S NEVER DONE BEFORE...
CLINK
AND CREATED A FULL-GROWN MALE DOLL.
GAB
YOU DON'T SAY!
GAB
HE'S VERY BEAUTIFUL AND WITH A MASCULINE BUILD.

HIS ATTIRE IS THE MOST LUXURIOUS AND GORGEOUS SILVER ARMOR...
HOW LOVELY!
I WANT TO SEE!
HE HASN'T FOUND ANY BUYERS FOR IT YET, THOUGH...
OH, MY...

SPEAKING OF RUMORS...
DID YOU KNOW THERE'S MORE TO THE STORY?
HUH?

CREAK
IS ACTUALLY...
THIS DOLL THAT HE SEEMS PARTICULARLY FOND OF...

The Genius Puppeteer loves the Holy Knight fiercely

The Genius Puppeteer loves the Holy Knight fiercely

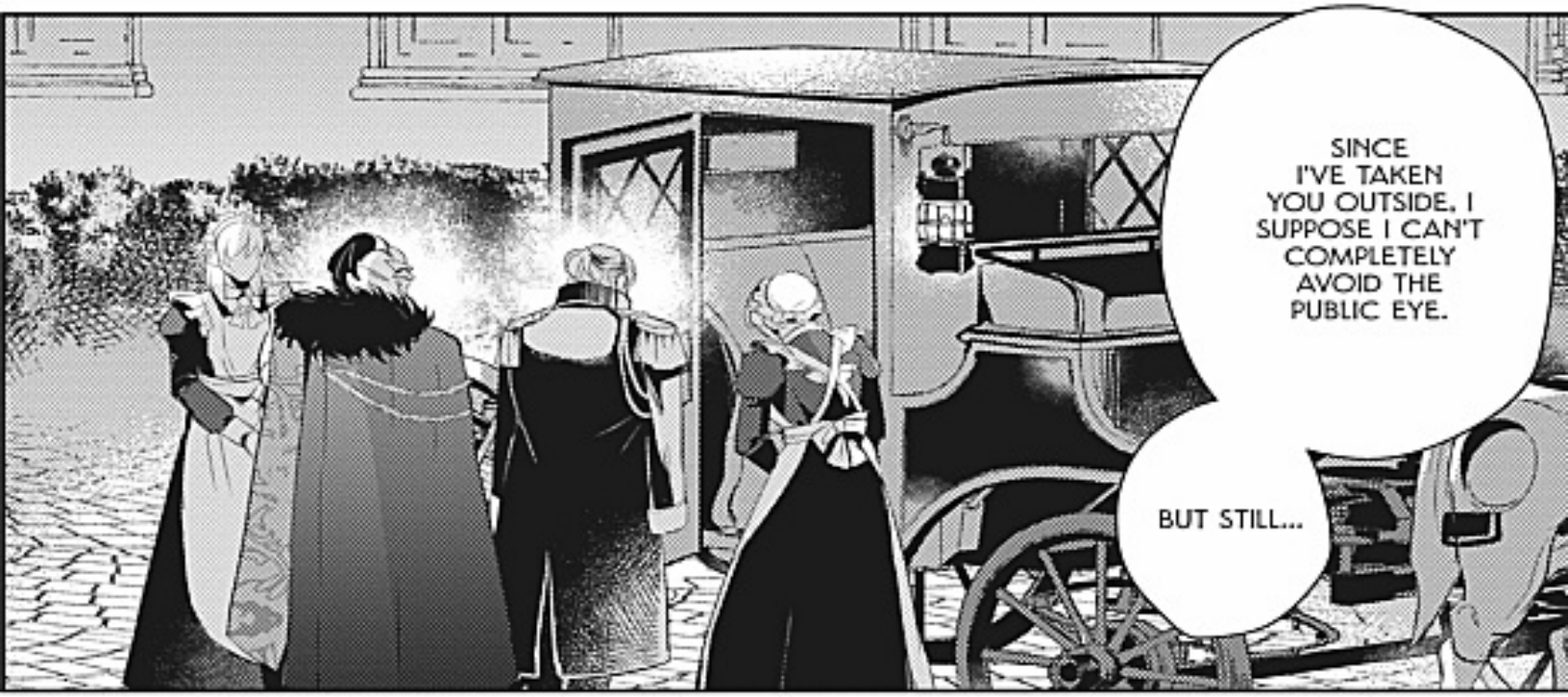
NEVER!
TRY AND CATCH ME! HA HA HA!
DASH
CHATTER
GIVE IT BACK!
WAIT!
BROTHER!
WAIT!
CHATTER
TMP TMP TMP
Bonus Story
In the Port Town

SWAY
WATCH OUT!
!!
OW...
HA...
SNAG
UWAH!
LURCH
!!
CRASH
BAM

CRASH
CLATTER
CLATTER
SQUINCH
...?
ZSH
YOU'RE NOT HURT, ARE YOU?
N...
BDMP
BDMP
NO!

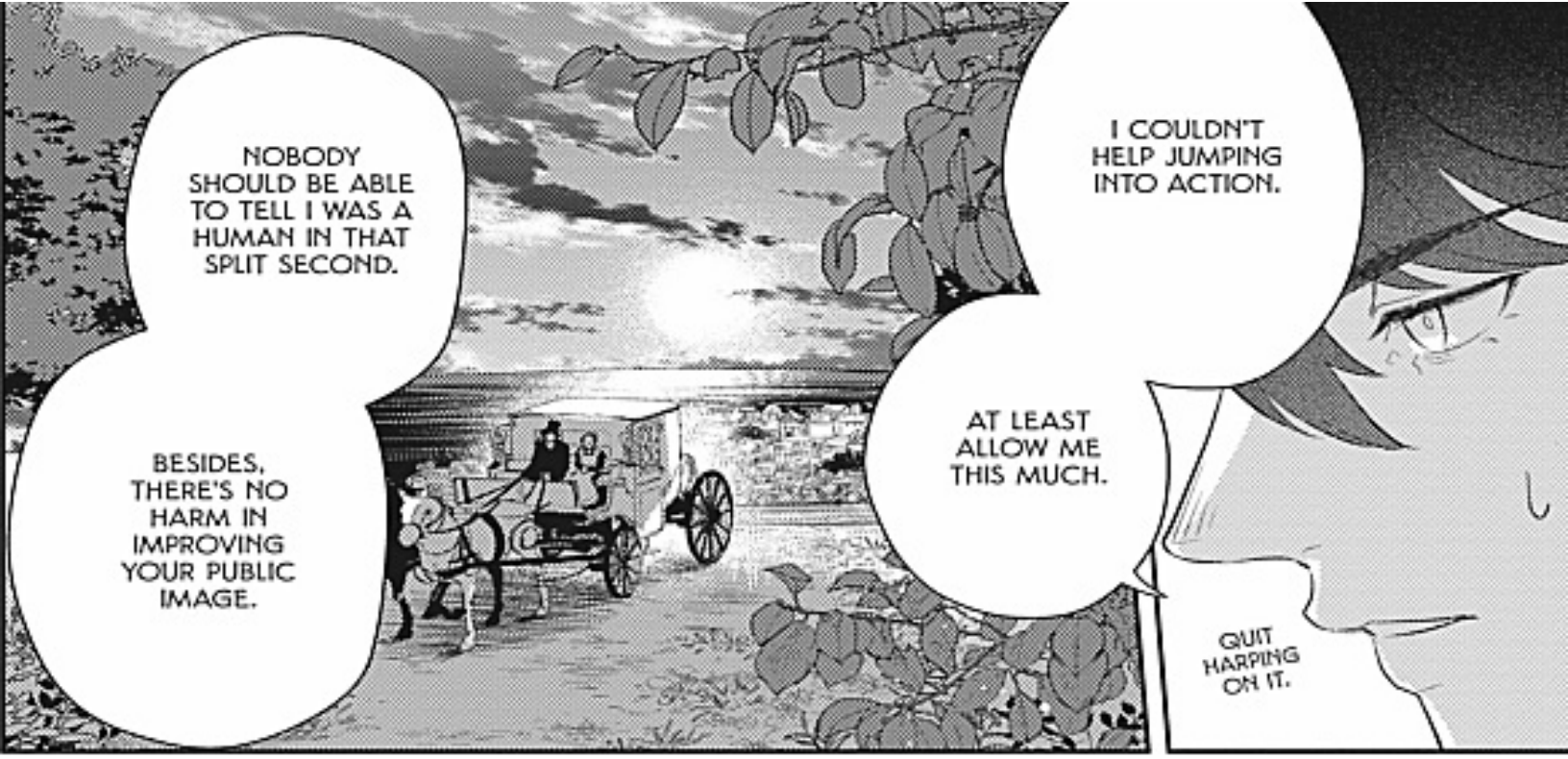
MURMUR
ARE YOU OKAY?
TMP TMP TMP
CLIK
TH-THANK YOU SO MUCH!
I APOLOGIZE ABOUT MY SON!
BOW
BOW
SWF
THEN IS THAT A DOLL?
MURMUR
MURMUR
COULD THAT MAN BE...
MUMUR
THE GENIUS PUPPETEER!
BUT IT FELT WARM...
NO NEED TO THANK US.
WE'RE LEAVING.
ZSH

HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I TOLD YOU TO JUST STAY BY MY SIDE...
AND GUARD ME?
DON'T ACT WITHOUT CONSULTING ME FIRST.

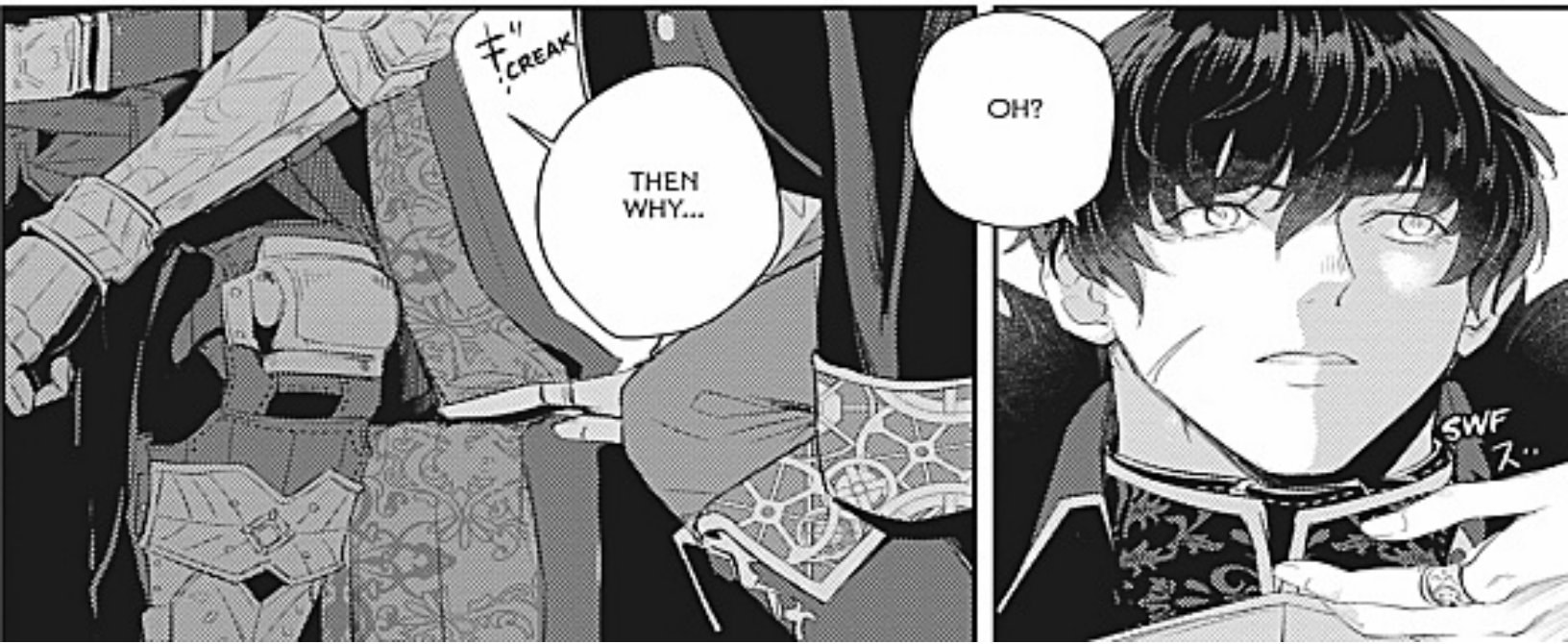

SINCE I'VE TAKEN YOU OUTSIDE, I SUPPOSE I CAN'T COMPLETELY AVOID THE PUBLIC EYE.
BUT STILL...

ガチャ CLANK
ARE YOU LISTENING?
HEY.
バタン BTAM

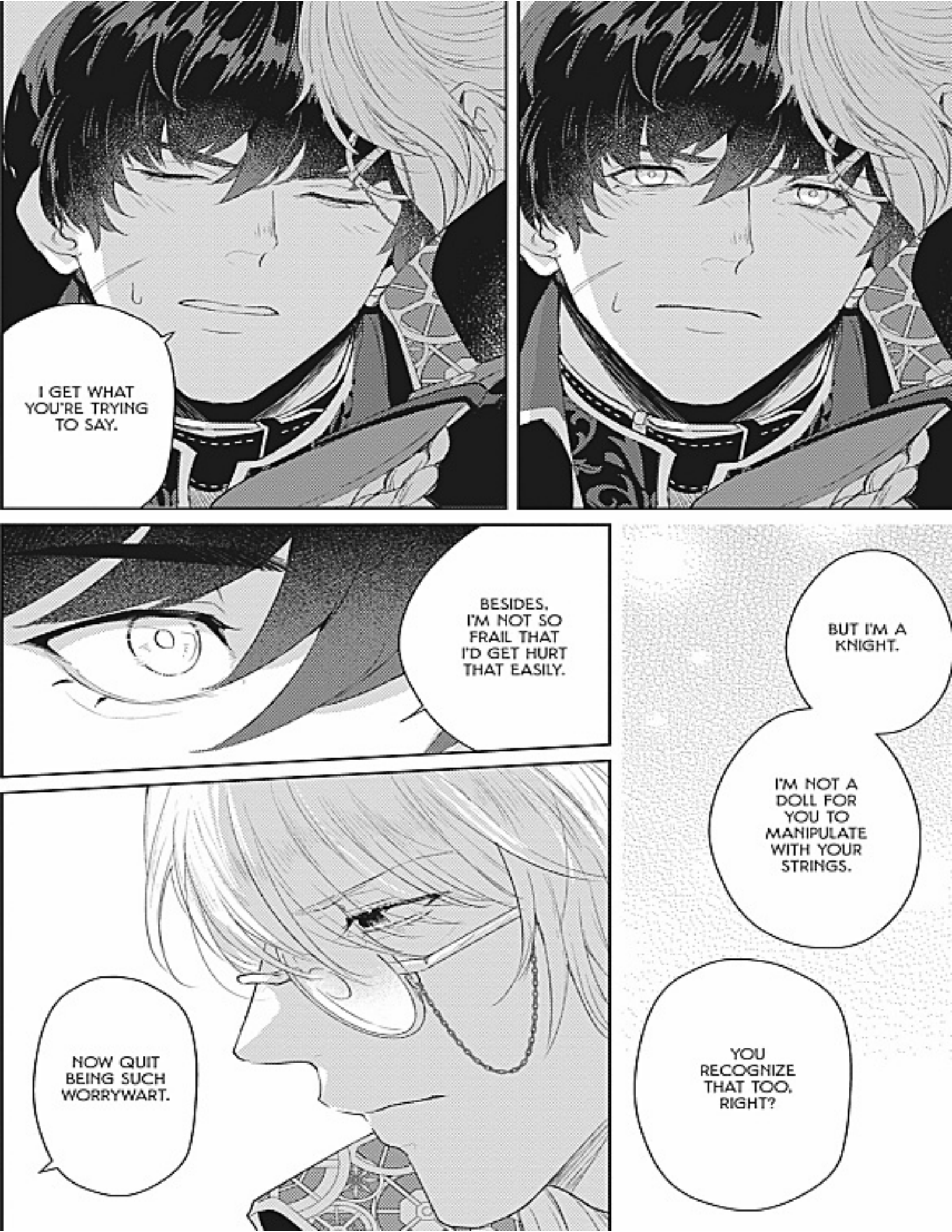
DAMN STRAIGHT.
RATTL
IF YOUR TRUE NATURE GOT OUT, IT'D CAUSE A MESS.
HAAH...
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO TOLD ME TO SPEAK AS LITTLE AS POSSIBLE WHILE IN TOWN.
I'M LISTENING.
CLANK
K-CLACK
A CHILD WAS IN DANGER.
EVEN SO.
THERE WAS NO NEED FOR YOU TO GO OUT OF YOUR WAY TO SHIELD HIM.
K-CLACK
THAT'S WHY I'M ALL THE MORE PERPLEXED, SINCE YOU OUGHT TO UNDERSTAND WHAT I AM TRYING TO ACHIEVE HERE.
WHY DID YOU DO SOMETHING THAT WOULD ATTRACT SO MUCH ATTENTION—AND ALL WITHOUT MY PERMISSION?
RATTL


NOBODY SHOULD BE ABLE TO TELL I WAS A HUMAN IN THAT SPLIT SECOND.
I COULDN'T HELP JUMPING INTO ACTION.
BESIDES, THERE'S NO HARM IN IMPROVING YOUR PUBLIC IMAGE.
AT LEAST ALLOW ME THIS MUCH.
QUIT HARPING ON IT.

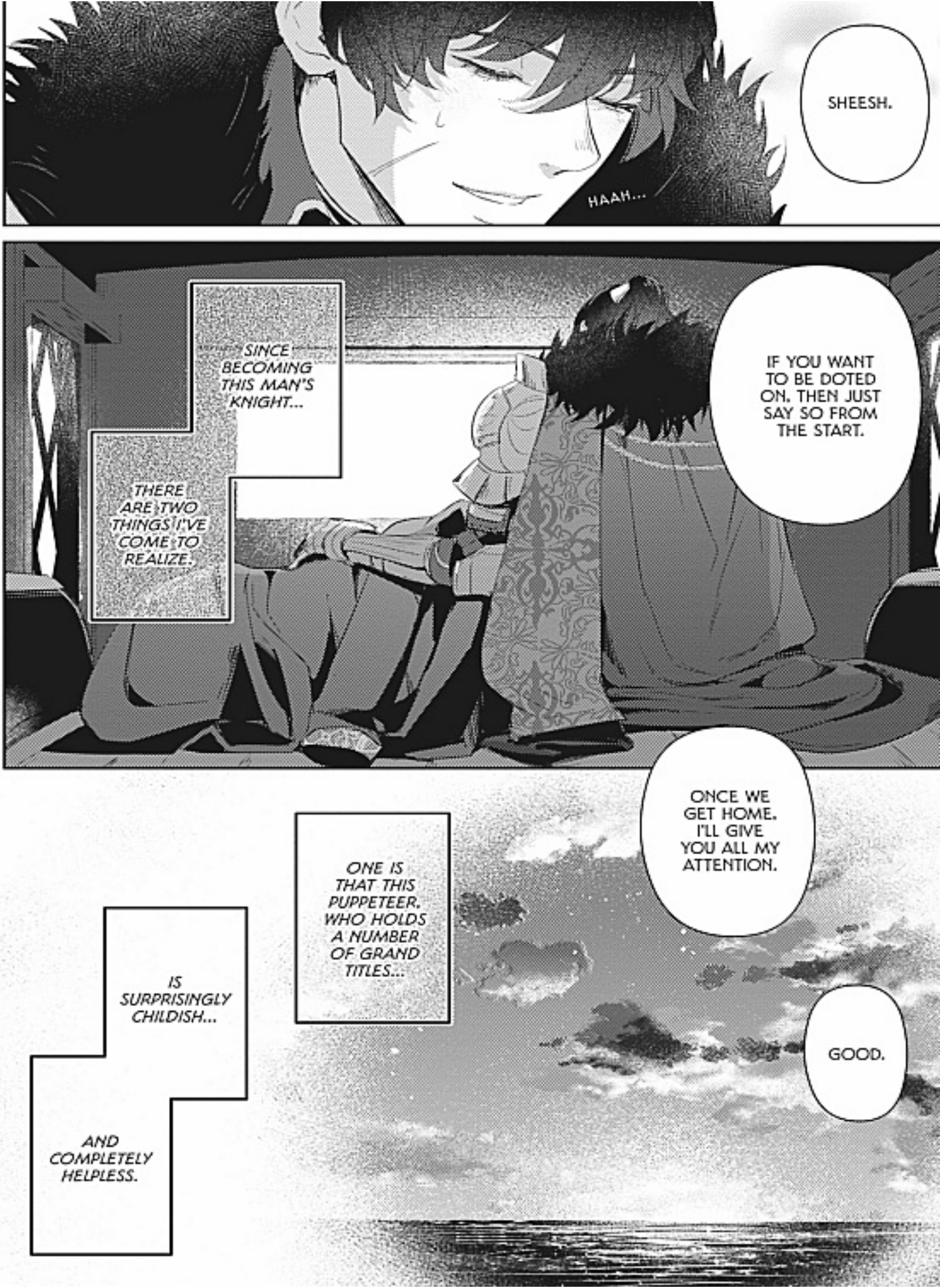
K-CLUNK
BESIDES, I'M NOT GOING OUT AND ABOUT WITH YOU...
TO SHOW OFF MY RESOURCES AND TECHNOLOGY.
K-CLANK
HMPH...
I DON'T NEED ANY MORE FAME THAN I ALREADY HAVE.


CREAK
THEN WHY...
OH?
SWF

グイ
PULL
DON'T MAKE ME SAY IT AGAIN.
I DON'T WANT TO ALLOW EVEN THE SLIGHTEST POSSIBILITY...
OF YOU GETTING HURT.
MORE THAN ANYTHING. IT'S THAT...


I GET WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO SAY.
BESIDES, I'M NOT SO FRAIL THAT I'D GET HURT THAT EASILY.
NOW QUIT BEING SUCH WORRYWART.
BUT I'M A KNIGHT.
I'M NOT A DOLL FOR YOU TO MANIPULATE WITH YOUR STRINGS.
YOU RECOGNIZE THAT TOO, RIGHT?

?!
すぅ〜
SLIIIIDE
WHAT'S SUDDENLY GOTTEN INTO YOU?
どさっ
FLOP
HAAH...
I'M TIRED.
ぐち
GRIPE
FIRST, I WAS CALLED AWAY FOR A MILITARY MEETING, WHICH WAS EVEN MORE BORING THAN USUAL...
AND THEN ON MY LONG JOURNEY BACK...
JUST WHEN I WAS FEELING RELIEVED THAT I'D GET TO BE HOME SOON...
IT'S ONLY BEEN HALF A DAY.
SHUT UP.
TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR PUTTING ME IN A BAD MOOD.


HAAH...
SHEESH.
SINCE BECOMING THIS MAN'S KNIGHT...
THERE ARE TWO THINGS I'VE COME TO REALIZE.
IF YOU WANT TO BE DOTED ON, THEN JUST SAY SO FROM THE START.
ONE IS THAT THIS PUPPETEER, WHO HOLDS A NUMBER OF GRAND TITLES...
IS SURPRISINGLY CHILDISH...
AND COMPLETELY HELPLESS.
ONCE WE GET HOME, I'LL GIVE YOU ALL MY ATTENTION.
GOOD.

SHIVER
AH!
GRIP
WAH!
...!
RIGHT THERE...!
IN THE END...
AND THE OTHER IS...
NGH...
THROB
JOLT
JOLT
SQUELCH
AH!
SQUELCH
IT FEELS LIKE I'M THE ONE GETTING INDULGED.
HFF... NGH!
SQUELCH
NO MORE... DON'T TEASE ME FROM BOTH ENDS AT ONCE...!
GRIND
SQUINCH
GRIND
WAH!
WHY ARE YOU ALWAYS SO INSISTENT ON PREPPING ME LIKE THIS?
NGH!
TWEAK
TWEAK
NGH!
TWITCH
...!
...!
MLEM
TWITCH
KUH!
...!
I DON'T REMEMBER EVER SAYING I LIKED IT.
HAH...
IT BRINGS YOU PLEASURE.
DO I NEED ANY MORE REASON THAN THAT?
WHY? BECAUSE YOU LIKE IT.
HAAH.
LICK

GROAN
I'VE THOUGHT THIS FOR A WHILE. BUT...
BLUSH
HAAH!
THAT LEFT EYE OF YOURS IS RATHER UNFAIR.
BEING ABLE TO SEE THE COLOR OF PEOPLE'S SOULS...
THERE'S NO NEED TO HIDE IT.
I CAN TELL JUST BY *LOOKING.*
SMIRK
YES. BUT...
THERE'S ANOTHER REASON I TAKE MY TIME.
TANGIBLE OBJECTS CAN ALWAYS BE BROKEN.
A DOLL CAN BE MADE USING DURABLE MATERIALS. BUT...
SWF

...HUMANS ARE FRAGILE.
ISN'T IT ONLY NATURAL TO TREAT FRAGILE THINGS WITH EXTRA CARE?
HE MEANT WHAT HE SAID THAT DAY.
I'M ALSO PRETTY INDULGENT WITH HIM.
SMOOCH
THIS MAN SEEMS TO LOVE ME...
IN HIS OWN SPECIAL WAY.
I GET IT ALREADY. SO THAT'S ENOUGH. COME ON.
IF YOU KEEP ME WAITING ANY LONGER... I'LL LOSE MY MIND.
CREAK
...!
WELL THEN, DON'T MIND IF I DO.
AH...

The Genius Puppeteer loves the Holy Knight fiercely

DEAR READERS,

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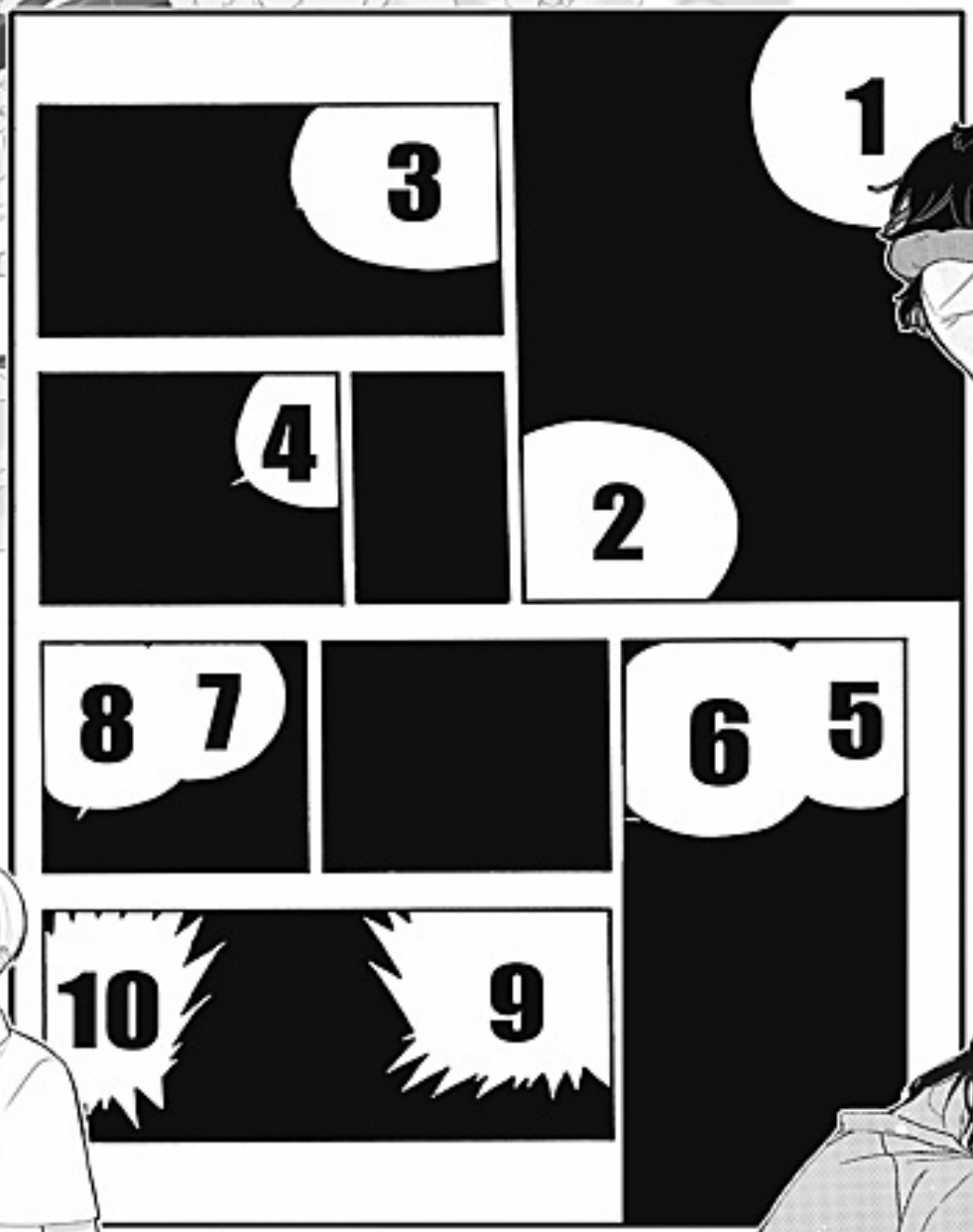
STOP

THIS IS THE BACK OF THE BOOK!

How do you read manga-style? It's simple! Let's practice — just start in the top right panel and follow the numbers below!



READ RIGHT-TO-LEFT

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The Genius Puppeteer Loves the Holy Knight Fiercely

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EPUB: 978-1-4278-7858-8
MOBI: 978-1-4278-7859-5
PDF:978-1-4278-7860-1